

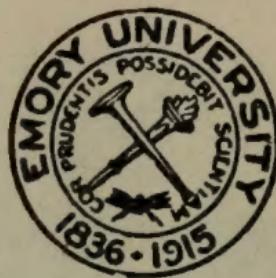


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W. Read Sc.

BOERHAAVE.

ATLANTIC
PROFESSIONAL
ANECDOTES,
OR
ANA
OF
MEDICAL LITERATURE.
in three Volumes.
VOL. II.



The College of Surgeons.

LONDON:

SPOTTISWOODE & CO., FANCY,

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fall

times up
as need you
not be surprised
so easily

See all those
the so long
hair in X-faces,

Cheltenham,
Jan. 16. 1807.

Dear Sir,

I congratulate you & Mr. Pitt
on the addition to your Stock. It is my
intention to be in Town soon, but however
I can not at the present moment positively
say. My movements will be regulated by
those of the College of Physicians & the
House of Commons. Informers have not
yet given his Return, which will,
when completed, be laid before the House.
His signature whether will say all those
troublesome friends which have so long
haunted the Metropolis with their Oppos-
ition and hostilities against Vaccination.

Answer, his idea for the best - You may
depend upon it the new vaccination
will prove the touchstone of the vaccine
discovery.

I have not yet seen your Monthly
Mag: for the present Month, probably
you may not have noticed the very
curious & interesting piece of intelligence
I rec'd from Madrid. This suggestion
induces me to enclose it. What a
glorious Intelligenc! I have made a place
with Spain, and you'll adore her philanthropie,
Monarchs. looks not this be touched
upon by some of those who pro's 'ya' introduce
patriotic stories into the world.

A word more respecting your
letter one off'th', I should be happy to

I held it myself from the Speculator Master,
but I would advise you not try to
risk my coming to Town. I will just
add that I consider the Vaccine lancet
in the hands of Shilling, just as safe
as in th. my own.

I say this wth my best wishes
to Mr Phillips & the Dr's I
have no longer other, best
wishes -

Very truly yours
G. J. Hunter.

MEDICINE

AND

MEDICAL MEN.

HERMAN BOERHAAVE.

“FIFTY years are now elapsed,” says Haller, “since I was the disciple of the immortal Boerhaave; but his image is continually present to my mind; I have always before me the venerable simplicity of that great man, who possessed, in an eminent degree, the power of persuasion.

Boerhaave wrote, in Latin, a commentary on his own life; in which, in the third person, he takes notice of his opinions, of his studies, and of his pursuits. In his lectures he constantly calls Sydenham the British Hippocrates.

Music and gardening were the usual amusements of Boerhaave. In the latter part of his life his great pleasure was to retire to his country-seat near Leyden, where he had a garden of eight acres, encircled with all the exotic shrubs and plants he could procure, that would

live in that soil. "Thus," says Dr. Lobb, "the amusement of the youth and of the age of this great man was of the same kind—the cultivation of plants; an employment coeval with mankind, the first to which necessity compelled them, and the last to which, wearied with the tiresome round of varieties, they are fond of retreating, as to the most innocent and entertaining recreation.

Boerhaave was buried in the great church of Leyden, under a large marble urn, thus simply inscribed:—

SALUTIFERO BOERHAAVII GENIO
SACR.

It has been mentioned, to the honor of Boerhaave, by one of his biographers, that he received the visits of three crowned heads,—the grand-duke of Tuscany, William the Third, and Peter the Great; the last of whom slept in his barge all night, over against the professor's house, that he might have two hours' conversation with him before he gave his lectures. These visits assuredly did more honor to the princes than to the philosopher, whose power, like that of the poets mentioned by Charles the Ninth, in his Epistle to Rosnard, is exercised upon the minds, while that of the sovereign is confined to the bodies of mankind.

ROBERT RECORDE.

Fuller mentions it as a remarkable circumstance, that Wales had three eminent physicians and writers who were contemporaries, viz. Recorde, Phayer, and Hyll.

Robert Recorde was educated at Oxford; and, in 1531, was elected fellow of All-Souls College. He was created doctor of medicine, at Cambridge, 1545; before and after which, it is said, that he taught arithmetic at Oxford, and to have excelled all his predecessors in rendering this branch of knowledge clear and familiar. He is also mentioned as having been remarkably skilled in rhetoric, astronomy, geometry, music, and mineralogy. He was well acquainted with the Saxon language; and made large collections of historical and other ancient MSS. To these various studies he joined that of divinity, and was attached to the principles of the reformers. Notwithstanding he was justly regarded as a prodigy of learning and parts, like many of the past and present day, it does not appear that he met with encouragement adequate to his merits, since all that is further known of him is, that he died in the King's Bench prison, where he was confined for debt, in the year 1558.

His principal works are the following :—

“ **The Ground of Arts, both in whole Numbers and Fractions,**” 1540.—There is a republication of this, printed in 1570, London, 12mo. In the Epistle Dedicatory, which is addressed to King Edward VI., he says,

“ He has omitted some things, which were not to be published without his highness’s approbation, namely, because in them is declared all the rates of alloyes for all standards, from one ounce upward, with other mysteries of mynte matters; and, also, most parte of the varieties of coynes that have bin currant in this your Majestie’s realm by the space almost of six hundred yeares laste past; and many of them that were currant in the tyme that the Romans ruled heer. All which, with the ancient description of Englande and Ireland, and the simple censure of the same, I have almost completed to be exhibited to your highnesse.”

As the coin was most notoriously adulterated by the ministers of Edward, this publication, probably, was not encouraged.

“ **The Whetstone of Wit;**” a second part to the former.

“ **The Pathway to Knowledge, containing the First Principles of Geometry.**”

“ **The Castle of Knowledge, containing the Explanation of the Sphere.**”

“ **The Urinal of Physick.**” This is dedicated in 1547, and was reprinted in London in the Years 1582, 1599, and 1665. Haller, in his

* *Bibliothe. Anat.* mentions it as containing a description of the urinary vessels with figures.

"The Judicial of Urines." This is supposed the same as the former, with the exception of a different title. It is a short, but very methodical treatise, full of divisions and subdivisions, relative to the different kinds of urines, and the prognostics* to be deduced from them. He, however, candidly acknowledges, at the commencement of his work, that the judgment to be formed of diseases, from the appearances of the urine, is not so certain as some have represented. His next books are

"Of Anatomy."—"Of Auricular Confession."—"Of the Eucharist."—"The Image of a true Commonwealth."

BARBER-SURGEONS COMPANY.

It was in the early part of the professional career of the celebrated Mr. Pott, that the surgeons separated themselves from the Company of Barbers. (The remains of the ancient hall

* Robert Recorde, it would appear, claims the honorable distinction of being, at least, the first English *piddle* doctor of whom we have any account. His worthy imitator, Dr. Cameron, may, therefore, look back with feelings of pride and exultation on his memorable predecessor.

of the latter are well worth the inspection of the curious; their elegant anatomical theatre, constructed of cedar wood, curiously wrought, was sold for the price of the materials.) Being desirous of giving his vote, on the occasion of some city election, he presented himself as a member of the Barber-Surgeons' company. "No, no," said the scrutineer, "you may still be a shaver, Mr. Pott, but you have not been a barber these five years."

PHYSICIAN'S VACATION.

Sir Thomas Browne, upon the capicular-days, thus expresses himself, in his usually affected style: "There generally passeth an opinion, that, during those days, all medication, or use of physic, is to be declined, and the cure committed unto nature. And, therefore, as though there were any variation in nature, or justitiums imaginable in professions, whose subject is natural, and under no intermissive, but constant way of mutation; this season is commonly termed the physician's vacation, and stands so received by most men. Which conceit, however general, is not only erroneous, but unnatural; and, subsisting upon foundations either false, uncertain, mistaken or misapplied, deserves not of mankind that indubitable assent it findeth." (*Vulgar Errors*, bk. iv. p. 256.)

GEORGE OWEN, M. D.

Was born at Worcester, and educated at Oxford. He became probationer-fellow of Merton College, in 1519, and took out his degrees in physic, that of doctor being conferred upon him in 1527. He was one of the physicians to Henry VIII., in which office he also served his successors, King Edward IV. and Queen Mary. Although he was a man of high character in his profession, there are, notwithstanding his exalted station at court, and the testimony of respectable contemporaries, very few particulars in his life important enough to be related or recorded. He was one of the witnesses to the will of Henry VIII., who left him a legacy of £100. It was reported, that the succeeding prince was brought into the world by Dr. Owen's means, who performed the Cæsarian section on his mother. In the first year of Queen Mary, he was very instrumental in obtaining an act for the confirmation and enlargement of the powers granted to the College of Physicians. A descendant of Dr. Owen's was condemned to death, in 1615, for maintaining the legality of killing a prince excommunicated by the pope.

Dr. Owen died, Oct. 10, 1558, of an epidemic ague, an account of which is given by Dr.

Caius, in his Annals of the College of Physicians; of which the following is a copy:—

“ Tertio die Octobris, A. D. 1558, electio præsidis erat, quod postridie divi Michaelis et statuto esse nequibat; distractis hinc inde omnibus Collegis in populi subsidium; qui febribus tertianis, duplicibus tertianis, et tertianis continuis ita vexabatur populariter per omnem mensem Augusti et Septembris, per que universam insulam Britanniam, perinde ac peste aliqua, ut nullus locus quieti aut privatis negotiis esse potuit. Ex hoc morbo periere multi, non in urbe solum, sed ruri etiam; inter quos Urbanus Huys erat, quod dolens refero, ex immodica fatigacione per æstus graviores, dum aulicos curaret, morbo correptus.

“ Per eos menses vix erant sani, qui ægris ministrarent; vix messores qui messem meterent, aut in horreum recoligerent. Hos morbos exceperunt quartanae populariter, ut non alias æque per hominum memoriam; et aliquot quintanae et octonæ etiam, sed hæ breves et sine periculo: Illæ plurimos de vita sustulerunt, flores videlicet gravitatis, consilii et ætatis maturæ, ex his Georgius Owenus erat, regius medicus et doctor Oxoniens, qui obiit, &c.”

EDWARD JORDEN

Was born in Kent, 1596, and educated at Hart-Hall, Oxford. After completing his studies, he travelled, and visited several foreign universities, and took his degrees at Padua. He narrowly escaped being assassinated by a jesuit for having too warmly advocated the Protestant religion. An instance of his good sense is re-

corded in the following circumstance. One Ann Gunter appeared to have a disorder attended with symptoms so strange and singular, that they were imputed to witchcraft. King James hearing of the matter, sent her to Jorden, who soon found reason to suspect her of being an impostor. Being confirmed in this opinion, by certain experiments, he acquainted the king with it; and, by proper management, his majesty brought the woman to confess that she had counterfeited her extraordinary fits, at the instigation of her father, with a design of fixing the odium of witchcraft upon a female neighbour who had quarrelled with him.

The circumstance which brought about Dr. Jorden's marriage are rather of a singular nature. He happened to be benighted on Salisbury Plain; when, meeting a shepherd, of whom he enquired the nearest place of entertainment, he was directed to the house of a Mr. Jordan, a hospitable and independent gentleman in that neighbourhood. Considering the similarity of names a good omen, the doctor rode to the spot, where he was kindly received, and where he proved so agreeable to his host, that he gave him his daughter, with a considerable fortune. He died in his sixty-third year, Jan. 7th, 1632, and was buried at St. Peter and St. Paul's church, Bath.

OLAUS WORMIUS.

This learned Danish physician commenced his studies in his native place, but early removed to Marburg, and thence to Strasburgh, where he first applied himself to physic, which science he afterwards pursued successfully at Basil, under Platerus and others. His uncommon abilities procured him distinguished honours at the University of Padua, at which place he made some stay previous to his visiting France. His design was to have made a long abode at Paris, but the assassination of Henry IV., which happened in 1610, about two months after his arrival, obliged him as well as others to leave that city for fear of disagreeable consequences; accordingly, he went directly to Holland, and thence returned to Denmark: as he had not yet visited the University of Copenhagen, his first care was to repair thither, and to be admitted a member of it. He was physician to the king and Court of Denmark; and Christian IV., as a recompence for his services, conferred on him a canonry of Lundern. He died in 1654, aged 66.

PRESCRIBING AND THINKING.

Even the patent or quack medicines, as they are frequently called, are not always bad drugs. Many of them, no doubt, are insignificant; but

many of them, as we have frequent opportunities of discovering by their characteristic effects, are nothing but our own best known and most active medicines, under new names, and variously disguised: for example, aloes, jalap, antimony, quicksilver, arsenic, opium, and above all, brandy. But these quack medicines, which a physician or surgeon, who knew what they were, might employ with safety and advantage, are every year pernicious to thousands, by being rashly, indiscriminately, and improperly used. The case is just the same, when the like powerful medicines, under their proper names, are employed by ignorant or negligent practitioners, though of the regular faculty.

STATE OF MEDICINE IN CHINA.

In the greatest, most ancient, and most civilized empire on the face of the earth, an empire that was great, populous, and highly civilized, two thousand years ago, when this country was as savage as New Zealand is at present, no such good medical aid can be obtained among the people of it, as a smart boy of sixteen, who has been twelve months apprentice to a good and well-employed London apothecary, might reasonably be expected to afford. According to the information which was received from the late Dr. Gillan, a physician of Scotland, who

was at Pekin, and passed all through China, with the British embassy, in that vast empire, they neither know the use of blood-letting, nor the way to set a broken bone: but this is no doubt greatly exaggerated.

SIR THOMAS ELYOT, M.D.

The author of the “*Castell of Health*,” a work published in 1541, was eminent in various branches of learning, as well as the patron and friend of learned men, in Henry VIII.’s reign.

The “*Castell of Health*” was greatly esteemed, as a production of no mean description, not only by the public in general, but by some of the faculty in his time; and is, indeed, entitled to as much notice as any of the works of that age. Sir Thomas, though not of the medical profession, is no less jealous of his book, which he attempts to vindicate and explain, by stating to some objections raised against it, that the “*Castell of Health*” is said to have been first published in 1541, yet my edition of that year is asserted to be corrected, and, in some places, augmented by the first author thereof.” It was reprinted in 1572, 1580, and 1595, thus undergoing four editions.

The writer in his preface, in answer to any objection that might be raised against his work, from his supposed ignorance of medical science,

gives an account of the manner he acquired this branch of knowledge; which is worthy of being quoted, on account of the course of reading mentioned in it. “Before,” says he, “that I was twenty years old, a worshipful physician, and one of the most renowned, at that time, in England, read unto me the works of Galen, of temperaments and natural faculties; the introduction of Johannicus, with some of the aphorisms of Hippocrates. And, afterwards, by mine own study I read over, in order, the *more* part of the works of Hippocrates, Galen, Oribasius, Paulus, Celsus, Alexander Trallianus, Plenius, the one and the other, with Dioscorides. Nor did I omit to read the long canons of Avicenna, the commentaries of Averrhoes, the practices of Isaac, Haliabbas, Rhases, Mesue; and also, of the more part of them which were their aggregators and followers. And, although I have never been at Montpellier, Padua, nor Salem, yet I have found something in physic whereby I have taken no little profit concerning mine own health.”

“His acquaintance with these eminent authors,” observes a late writer, “is sufficiently evinced in his own work by his frequent references to them, and his adopting all the theory of Galen with its numerous distinctions and divisions. It cannot be expected that much of

original matter should be found in a writer so circumstanced. On the whole, his rules for diet and regimen, when not drawn from Galenical theory, are founded upon plain good sense; and he uniformly inculcates temperance of every kind. This he carries to a degree, with regard to certain enjoyments, that would, I presume, be generally thought somewhat too rigorous, except by such a bridegroom as the old gentleman in La Fontaine, who would be pleased with our knight's authority to add all the months, from April to October, to the red-letter days of his kalender.

This author, in speaking of different kinds of drink, makes the following remark with respect to cider drinkers: "Who that will diligently mark in the countries where cider is used for a common drink, the men and women have the colour of their visage palid, and the skin of their visage rivelled, although that they be young."* From another passage we learn that the disease

* The qualities of the cider in some counties have been a subject of much disquisition; and from this passage it will appear, that suspicions concerning the unwholesomeness of this liquor are of long standing. The Devonshire cholic, or dry belly-ache, from its frequent occurrence in Devonshire and other cider counties, gives every foundation for the belief that there is some noxious property in the cider not yet detected.

now called “a cold,” began to be common in England in his time. “At this present time,” he says, “in this realm of England there is not any one more annoyance to the health of man’s body, than distillations from the head, called rheums.” The cause of this complaint being more frequent then, than forty years before, he supposes to be “banquettings after supper, and drinking much, specially wine a little after sleep;” and also covering up the head too hot; a practice which prevailed to such a degree, that he tells us, “now a-days, if a boy of seven years of age, or a young man of twenty years, have not two caps on his head, he and his friends will think that he may not continue in health; and yet, if the inner cap be not of velvet, or satin, a sewing.

ATTAINMENT OF LONG LIFE.

Sir William Paulett, who died in the reign of Queen, at the age of 97, gave the following reply to a person who enquired how he had preserved his health :

Late supping I forebear;
Wine and women I forswear;
My neck and feet I keep from cold;
No marvel then though I be old:
I am a willow not an oak,
I chide, but never hurt with stroke.

JAMES COYTIER, PHYSICIAN TO CHARLES
XI. OF FRANCE.

The only circumstance worthy of note during this man's career, was the singular dexterity which he shewed in managing his sovereign, who, without any single principle that could be laid hold of, had an intense fear of death, of which contemptible cowardice Coytier took the advantage ; and by often threatening his master with a speedy dissolution, managed to obtain from him, from time to time, innumerable important favours. Louis, however, once recovered strength of mind enough to be ashamed of his imbecility ; and feeling a momentary resentment for what he then conceived to be an insolence of his physician, ordered him to be privately dispatched. Coytier, apprised of this by the officer, who was his friend, replied : " that the only concern he felt about himself was, not that he must die, but that the king could not survive him more than five days ; that he knew this by a particular science, and only mentioned it to him in confidence, as an intimate friend." Louis, informed of this, was more frightened than ever, and ordered Coytier to be at large as usual.

The following letter to M. Cadonel, prior of Notre Dame de Selles, written by Louis, his cowardly master, is truly characteristic.—" Sir

Prior, my friend, I most earnestly entreat you to pray to God and our Lady of Selles for me, that they will be so good as to give me a quartan ague. For my physicians tell me, that I have a disorder of which I cannot recover, unless I am so fortunate as to have the quartan ague. When I get it, I will immediately let you know."

DANIEL KENRICUS

Practised as a physician at Worcester, about 1685. He was not a graduate, nor very able in his profession; but was esteemed a man of wit, and a jolly companion. The following lines, printed in the fifth volume of Dryden's Miscellany, "upon a giant angling," are said to have been written by him, viz.—

" His angle-rod made of a sturdy oak,
His line a cable that in storms ne'er broke,
His hook he baited with a dragon's tail,
And sat upon a rock and bob'd for whale."

ADVENTURE OF A LONDON DRUGGIST.

A London druggist, being in a country town, in the course of his summer ride, to ask the commands and take the money of his very good friends the apothecaries, in pure simplicity of heart invited each of them to sup with him at a tavern the same night. All promised; all came; but one by one. When the second came

in, the first, without saying a word, took up his hat and went away. Enter No. 3; exit No. 2; and so on to the very last of eight or ten of them. Of course, No. 10 and the London druggist had supper enough! Next morning, the Druggist, meeting one of the deserters, expressed his concern at having lost the pleasure of his company the evening before. "What the devil, Sir, do you think I would sit in company with such a scoundrel as ——" and he got the same answer in substance from every one of them.

ABERNETHY.

This distinguished surgeon was born in London, about the year 1755. He commenced his professional studies under Mr. Charles Blike, one of the surgeons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital. On the death of Mr. Pott, Mr. Abernethy became assistant-surgeon to St. Bartholomew's, and succeeded Mr. P. as lecturer on anatomy and surgery. Mr. Abernethy's class continued for a few years to be very small, owing to Dr. Marshall, who had been long giving lectures in the neighbourhood ; about this time, however, he began to establish the high reputation he has since acquired, by the publication of some physiological essays, and a work on the treatment of lumbar abscess. On Dr. Marshall relinquishing his lectures, about twenty years since,

Mr. Abernethy's class became much increased in number; and he then began to be known as a practitioner, and engaged a gentleman to undertake the office of demonstrator, to enable him to attend more to his private practice.

Mr. Abernethy, as an author, next produced his Surgical Essays; where he published an account of the cases in which he had tied the external iliac artery. This was certainly a bold and meritorious operation, yet the means of preserving life in this way, in cases of aneurism of the inguinal artery, were obvious; though the attempt was considered so hazardous, as hardly to afford a hope of success; indeed, it was not until some French surgeons had witnessed it, that it could gain credit at Paris. This improvement in operative surgery established his fame, and the credit of the English school throughout Europe.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital, on the death of Pott, fell off in reputation as a school for surgery, and had not Dr. Marshall given lectures near it, it would have been almost deserted. It has, however, advanced with the fame of Mr. Abernethy, and is now among the first in the metropolis. Mr. Abernethy is, unquestionably, as excellent and complete a teacher on anatomy, surgery, and pathology, as there is in London; for his mode of teaching is peculiar to

himself. On anatomy, he is not very minute; he considers this can only be thoroughly learned in the dissecting-room; but the eloquence and energy of his manner, and the various pleasing illusions he introduces, gives such an interest to what he delivers, as does not fail to gain the attention of his pupils, and incite them to farther pursuits. Prefatory to a particular description of the bones, he adduces some general remarks on the particular subjects, which usually lead to reflections beyond the common topics of the schools.

Mr. A., at the same time, is careful to point out the nature of those accidents and diseases connected with the immediate subject of his discourse. In passing over the skeleton, he advert's to the varieties of fracture and dislocation, and the obstacles bones may themselves oppose to their reduction. When he treats on the ligaments and muscles, he again notices that important part of surgery, and shews the farther considerations requisite for reducing them: thus impressing the information on the minds of his pupils, and leaving them to form a full and particular estimate of the means of repairing those injuries. In his surgical lectures, he is also a judicious teacher. He is particularly zealous in shewing that the education of a surgeon is never complete; that his whole life must be a

course of study. If one mode of treatment does not answer in disease, or begins to fail in its efficacy, another is to be employed; and a diseased action is to be followed up unremittingly until it begins to wear itself out, when we may be successful in finally removing it. And in considering likewise the effect of remedial measures employed, we must be careful, he observes, to notice the circumstances under which they failed, and under which they succeeded. Thus we find, throughout England, that, among the younger race of surgeons, the pupils of Mr. Abernethy are behind none; and are generally safe and judicious practitioners. He has uniformly opposed the division of surgery into distinct departments, as those of the oculist, the dentist, and the aurist; considering they are essentially connected, and that no properly educated man can be ignorant of the diseases which those departments embrace. A few years since, when an infirmary for these diseases was about to be established by a few medical men, who had got the names of many of the principal surgeons to sanction it, and who called on Mr. Abernethy, to request that he would allow his name to be inserted among those of the presidents, not doubting of his acquiescence; he replied—"I see no good that can arise from this to the public; it may be of use to the sur-

geons, but I candidly tell you, I consider it quackery, and I will never lend my name to sanction it: every surgeon should be acquainted with the diseases of the organs of sight and hearing; and, to detach them from regular surgery, would be not less injurious to the science, than oppressive to the public."

SWOON.

At Antwerp, a countryman coming into a perfumer's shop, fell into a swoon, but was speedily recovered by rubbing his face and nose all over with horse-dung!

THE RUFFIAN PHLEBOTOMIST.

An Italian, mentioned by Solenander, was on his death-bed; when a man whom he had aggrieved, though told he was in a dying state, resolved, in the Italian way, to do the business with his own hands. He enters the chamber, gives the sick man a desperate stab, and so departs. By the flux of blood (for it seems he required bleeding,) he quite recovered.

Sir Edmund King bled King Charles II. for apoplexy, putting the rigour of the law at defiance, in case of failure of success. He succeeded, and one thousand pounds reward was ordered to him. "But," says Burnet, "he was never paid."

BICHAT'S THEORY OF LIFE.

Marie Francis Xavier Bichat was born 1771. He studied under the celebrated Desault, whom he assisted to the end of his life in his practice, in his studies, and in his lectures. At the age of twenty-seven he published his treatise on the membranes; and, in the succeeding year, his researches upon life and death. His next work was his general anatomy; and he began a work on descriptive anatomy, of which he lived to complete only two volumes. He died in 1802, in the 31st year of his age, greatly esteemed and regretted.

According to M. Bichat, every thing around living bodies tends constantly to their destruction. And to this influence they would necessarily yield, were they not gifted with some permanent principle of re-action. This principle is their life, and a living system is, therefore, necessarily always engaged in the performance of functions, whose object is to resist death. Life, however, does not consist in a single principle, as has been taught by some celebrated writers—by Stahl, Van Helmont, Barthez, &c. We are to study the phenomena of life as we do those of other matter, and refer the operations performed in living systems to such ultimate principles as we can trace them to, in the same

way that we do the operations taking place among inorganic substances.

The chemist refers the phenomena of his science to the chemical; the natural philosopher, to the physical properties of matter. So in physiology, we are to analyse the functions as we study them, and thus discover the properties or powers of living systems, to which they are to be attributed.

Living systems, in this manner, are found to be endowed with certain properties, powers, or principles, the chief of which are those of feeling and moving, by whose possession their organs are rendered capable of performing the functions upon which the continuance of life depends.

Life, then, according to Bichat, is the state of being, produced by the possession and exercise of what he calls the vital properties; yet he does not always adhere with logical strictness to this definition, but rather uses the term sometimes to designate, collectively, the vital properties themselves; and this, perhaps, is the best and most convenient sense. His essential doctrine however is, that there is no one single individual presiding principle of vitality, which animates the body; but that it is a collection of matter gifted for a time with certain powers of action, combined into organs which are thus

enabled to act; and that the result is a series of functions, the connected performance of which, constitutes it a living thing.

This is Bichat's view of life, considered in the general and most simple way. But in carrying the examination further, he points out two remarkable modifications of life, as viewed in different relations, one common both to animals and vegetables, the other peculiar to animals. The vegetable exists entirely within itself, and, for itself, depending upon other substances only for the materials of nutrition; the animal, on the contrary, in addition to this eternal life, has another, by which he cements himself with objects about him, maintains relations with them, and is bound to them by the ties of mutual dependance. This affords a principle upon which to form a distinct classification of our functions. Those which we have in common with the vegetable, which are necessary merely to an individual bodily existence, are called the functions of organic life, because they are common to all organised matter. Those, on the other hand, which are peculiar to animals, which in them are superadded to the possession of the organic functions, are called the functions of animal life.

Physiologically speaking, then, we have two lives, the concurrence of which enables us to live, move, and have our being; both equally,

necessary to the relations we maintain as human beings, but not equally necessary to the simple existence of a living thing. By our organic life, food proper for our nutrition is first submitted to the operation of digestion, is then thrown into the circulation, undergoes in the lungs the changes which respiration is intended to effect, is then distributed to the organs to be applied to their nutrition; from these, after a certain period, it is removed by absorption, thrown again into the circulation, and discharged, at length, from the system by means of the several exhalations and secretions.

This is the life by which all the parts of the body are kept in a state of repair; it is the life of waste and supply; necessarily subservient to the performance of those functions which are the distinguishing characteristics of our nature, but not at all engaged itself in their performance.

By our animal life, on the contrary, we become related to the world about us; the senses convey to us a knowledge of the existence of other things, beside ourselves; a knowledge also of their qualities and their capacities for producing pleasure or pain; we feel, we reflect, we judge, we will, and re-act upon external things, by means of the organs of locomotion and tone; according to the result of these mental operations, we become capable of commu-

nicipating and receiving pleasure and pain, happiness and misery. In fact, by the organic life we merely exist negatively; by the animal, that existence becomes a blessing or a curse, a source of enjoyment or of suffering.

BUISSON'S MODIFICATIONS OF BICHAT'S THEORY OF LIFE.

After the death of Bichat, a work was published by M. F. R. Buisson, embracing the same parts of physiology as the *Researches of Bichat*, but with some modifications of his views, which however had been submitted to his revisal, and met with his approbation.

Buisson was a particular friend of Bichat, and one of the editors of the three posthumous volumes of the *Anatomie Descriptive*. Man he defines to be an intelligence administered (*servie*) by organs; and, upon this view of his nature, founds a physiological classification, the same in effect as that of Bichat. The organs are of two classes:—1. Those immediately subservient to the purposes of intelligence, such as the eye, the ear, the organs of locomotion, of voice, &c. and these, taken together, form the *active life*. 2. Those not immediately connected with the intelligence, and not under its controul, which are yet necessary to it, from nourishing and preserving the instruments with

which it does immediately operate, such as the stomach, the heart, the lungs, &c.; these form the *nutritive life*. This division, it is obvious, does not differ essentially from that of Bichat; although perhaps a more original and beautiful point of view from which to look at man, as a subject of physiology, it is less perfectly applicable to life, considered as a whole, and possessed by a long series of animals and vegetables.

DR. KING.

In "Evelyn's Memoirs," we find the following account of Edmund King, knt. M.D., physician to Charles II.

This gentleman was originally a surgeon, and, at a critical moment, saved the king's life, by bleeding him.

" 1655, 4 Feb. I went to London, hearing his majesty had been, the Monday before, (2 Feb.) surprised in his bed-chamber with an apoplectic fit, so that, if by God's providence, Dr. King, (that excellent chirurgeon as well as physitian) had not been accidentally present, to let him blood (having his lancet in his pocket), his majesty had certainly died that moment, which might have been of direful consequence, there being nobody else present with the king, save this doctor and one more, as I am assured. It was a mark of the extraordinary dexterity, resolution, and presence of mind, in the doctor, to let him blood, in the very paroxysm, without staying the coming of other physicians, which regularly should have been don, and for want of which he must have a regular pardon, as they tell me."

**MEDICINE AND SURGERY AMONG THE
ABORIGINES OF NEW HOLLAND.**

The New Hollanders have few diseases, but such as arise among those near towns from intemperance and neglect of themselves; like the white inhabitants, they are subject to bowel complaints, and they consider the gum of the mimosa a sovereign remedy in these disorders. It has not been ascertained whether they obtained the knowledge of any medicinal virtues this gum possesses from the colonists, or the colonists from them; but they both make use of it, and consider it of great service in dysentery. The root of the fern they consider diuretic, and they use it in gonorrhœa, and other affections of the urinary organs. This, it is believed, is the extent of their medicinal skill. Their native doctors never venture further. The chief part of their art is confined to charms, which consist in repeating some set words over the patient; but of the meaning of them, or their supposed efficacy, no other information could be obtained than they deemed it right always to undergo such a ceremony when they are very ill. The headman of the tribe is very generally doctor. They are fond of applying to the European medical men for advice, but they can seldom be got to take medicine. A

glass of Bengal rum, or, in the colonial phrasology, "bull," is their great panacea; and to it they resort whenever they can obtain it. In this respect they implicitly follow the practice of their civilized brethren, among whom Bengal rum forms the only enjoyment when well, and the only medicine when ill."

The surgery of the native tribes is equally simple with their medical practice, but more efficacious. When bit by snakes, which is with them a frequent occurrence, they make a ligature above the wound, scarify it with a shell, or any sharp instrument they possess, and then suck it for a considerable time. The women exercise this branch of the art; and, when they are at hand, the colonists, who meet with accidents of this kind, always apply to them; and if this simple operation be performed soon after the injury is inflicted, the deleterious effects of the poison are generally prevented.

NONNIUS

Was author of a treatise entitled, "*Dieteticon, sive de Re cibaria,*" which, in these days, might perhaps be interpreted, 'Peptic Precepts.'—He was a great stickler for the wholesomeness of fish diet, and wrote a book called "*Itchophagia; seu de usu Piscium,*" in which fish is shown to be the most salutary and proper ali-

ment, for all descriptions of persons, sick or sound, fat or lean, old or young, according to the opinions of more ancient physicians, who have written “*De salubri Piscium Alimento.*”

SPECIFIC.

Dr. Tronchin, of Paris, made spare diet always one of the first of his prescriptions. “ ‘Tis the best way (he said) to cut off the enemy’s provisions; that is already a great point gained.”

HYDROPHOBIA.

Dr. Plot, the Oxfordshire historian, wrote a strange letter, from Rochester, to his friend Dr. Charlett, August 18, 1693. “ The greatest rarity that I met with here, viz. a medicine for the bite of a mad-dog, which was applied to Doctor de Langley, prebend of Canterbury, his wife and his fair daughter, who were all three dipt in salt-water, a little below the bridge, without fig-leaves, last Friday morning, by two lewd (unlearned) fellows of this town; the spectators, you may be sure, being very numerous.” (*Bodlëian Papers*, vol. i. p. 58.) Shortly after, another remedy, for this disorder, appeared in France, which we extract from the treatise entitled “*La Medecine Aisée,*” written by M. Le Clerc, Counseilleir Medecin du Roi, published

at Paris, in 1719. Vide page 103.—“*Pour la cure de la playe, mettez dessus du poil du chien qui a mordu. C'est le remède de Paré.*”*

NOSES.

Lavater considers the nose as the fulcrum of the brain, and describes it as a piece of góthic architecture. “It is in the nose that the arch of the forehead properly rests, the weight of which, but for this, would mercilessly crush the cheeks and the mouth.” He enters into the philosophy of noses with diverting enthusiasm, and finally concludes, “*Non cuique datum est habere nasum;*”—it is not every one’s good fortune to have a nose!

THE PHYSICIAN AND POET.

Louis XIV. one day, seeing Moliere along with M. Mauvilain, his physician, thus addressed the former:—“So, Moliere! you have got your doctor along with you, I see:—Now what, in the name of wonder, can you and he have to do together?”—“With submission to your majesty,” returned the poet, “we have a great deal to say to each other: Monsieur M. prescribes medicines for me, which I never take; and so—I get better.”

* For the cure of the wound, put some of the same dog’s hair upon it. This is Pare’s remedy.

APOPLEXY DEFINED.

A man of wit has said, that a slight attack of the apoplexy is a notice to quit. Another has called it a personal summons to death. When the Marquis de la Fare, the writer of some light and elegant poetry, was asked how he did, he used always to reply, “ I expect the apoplexy ;” he died, in effect, of this disease.

WOODWARD.

Among the prints which adorn Ward’s ‘ Lives of the Gresham Professors,’ is a view of Gresham college, with a gate-way, entering from Broad-street, marked 25. Within are the figures of two persons, the one standing and the other kneeling; these represent Dr. Mead, and Dr. Woodward the professor of physic there, and allude to a transaction of which the following is the history. In the exercise of his profession, Dr. Woodward had said or done something that had given offence to Dr. Mead. Mead, resenting it, was determined to have satisfaction, and meeting Woodward in this place, when he was returning to his lodgings in the college, drew, as did his adversary; but Mead, having obtained the advantage of him, commanded him to beg his life. Woodward

answered, with some wit, "No, doctor, that I will not till I am your patient." However, he yielded, and his submission is marked by a situation which represents him tendering his sword. Dr. Mead was the friend and patron of Ward, which may possibly account for the above fact being so singularly recorded.

WILLIAM STUKELY, M. D.

The useful life of this physician terminated in three days from the commencement of a paralytic stroke, with which he was attacked. Business calling his housekeeper away, who had just been reading to him, according to custom; on her return he said to her, with a smile of complacence on his countenance, "Sally, an accident has happened since you have been absent."—"Pray, sir, what is that?"—"No less than a stroke of the palsy."—Sally replied, "I hope not, sir," and began to weep.—"Nay, do not trouble yourself," said the doctor, "but get me some help to carry me up-stairs, for I shall never come down again but on men's shoulders." His words proved but too prophetically true.

DEATH OF DESCARTES.

This eminent philosopher, while passing over the bridge at Stockholm, was seized with a

severe fit of cold, on which he reasoned in the following manner:—"Cold," said he, "condenses fluids and all other bodies; heat, on the contrary, rarifies them; consequently, brandy must be a specific in this case, let us drink some then." He drank largely and died.

Such is the story commonly reported relative to the death of this great man, who was not himself proof against the equivocal inductions deduced from the hypothetical speculations of a warm and enthusiastic imagination. Goris, however, states, that his death was occasioned by drinking brandy during a hot fever, contrary to the advice of his physician, who, nevertheless, according to M. de Voltaire, (*Lettr. Philosoph.*) and others, mortally hated him.

DR. MONSEY AND A CLERGYMAN.

No one who pretended to understand Monsey's character, can forget that it was impossible for folly or affectation to pass undetected, and, seldom, with impunity, in his company.

A young clergyman, whose sound understanding and good heart were undisputable, was affected with a solemn theatrical mode of speaking at times, accompanied with a mincing, finical gesture, bordering on the coxcomb. This foible did not escape the eagle-eye of his friend, who well knew his worth, and would not hurt

his feelings; the doctor, therefore, took an opportunity, when they were alone, to censure him, and agreed that, whenever he saw the "affected dramatica," as he called it, coming on, as a signal, always to offer him his snuff-box, with two smart raps on the lid of it, to prevent him from lapsing into such an erroneous habit. The gentleman alluded to, as a sterling proof of his good sense, spoke ever afterwards of that circumstance with gratitude. A visible improvement in the deportment of the young divine took place, and Monsey was very probably instrumental in procuring preferment for him, as well as in his obtaining a wife with a handsome dower.

BOERHAAVE AND PERUVIAN BARK.

Boerhaave observed, that it could have been wished the Peruvian bark had never been known; "for," says he, "it has killed more people than all the armies of Louis XIV." This antipathy to the bark, however, did not originate with any prejudice he might have entertained against the virtue and use of this drug; but, on the contrary, from the ignorance of physicians, who did not know how to prescribe with sufficient discretion to produce the salutary advantages that are known to attend its judicious administration. A little national pre-

judice, no doubt, came in for a share of this aversion. It is reasoning wrong to condemn a good thing because a bad use is made of it; his argument was retorted upon the physicians ; he felt all the force of the application, and laughed heartily ; which, in fact, is the best reply this great man could have made.—*Aliquando bonus dormitat Homerus.*

A SURGEON WHALE-CATCHER.

Although by no means a successful surgeon, John Sheldon flattered himself with the whimsical notion that he had discovered an easy method of catching whales, by means of poisoned harpoons ; and he actually made a voyage to Greenland for the purpose of putting his experiment to the test.

A SURGEON-AERONAUT.

Mr. Sheldon was also a great patroniser of aeronauts, and he boasted of being the first Englishman who made an experimental ascent, concerning which, the following anecdote is related :—At the time Blanchard descended from one of his aerial voyages, in a garden adjacent to Mr. Lochie's, he was very urgent with Sheldon, previous to the ascent, to alight, and suffer him to make his excursion alone. Sheldon, however, would not comply ;

in consequence of which, a short dispute took place. "If you are my friend," said Blanchard, "you will alight. My fame, my all, depend on my success." Still Sheldon was positive; on which, the little aeronaut, in a violent passion, swore, "By gar, he would starve him. *Point du chicken; you shall have no chicken, by gar,*" said the Frenchman; and, exclaiming this, he threw out every morsel of their provision, which, lightening the balloon, they ascended majestically, amidst the cheers and good wishes of an overwhelming multitude.

BLOOD-LETTING.

A Surgeon, after having attended during more than two months, and cured the wife of a shepherd, who had a very dangerous disorder, requested nothing for his cure, neither for the remedies he had provided, because he knew the state of misery to which this family was reduced: the shepherd, however, very desirous to express his gratitude, recollecting that his benefactor took snuff. He bought a snuff box, made of box wood, and engraved on the lid the figure of a young woman sitting, whom a surgeon is bleeding, with this inscription around, "I WOUND THEE TO CURE THEE." He then offered the box to his Esculapius, who received it with much pleasure,

Several who have seen it, judge the performance not unworthy of our best artists.

DR. JOHN CASE, A QUACK,

Who succeeded the equally-renowned Lilly, whose magical instruments he possessed, had the following couplets affixed, the first on his door, the other on his pill-boxes :—

“ Within this place
Lives Doctor Case.”

“ Here’s fourteen Pills for thirteen-pence,
Enough in any man’s own conscience.”

DR. RADCLIFFE AND DR. CASE.

“ Whole troops of quacks shall join us on the place,
From great Kirleus down to Dr. Case.”—GARTH.

Granger says, the following anecdote of Case was communicated to him by the Rev. Mr. Gosling, in these terms :

“ Dr. Maundy, formerly of Canterbury, told me, that, in his travels abroad, some eminent physician, who had been in England, gave him a token to spend, at his return, with Dr. Radcliffe and Dr. Case. They fixed on an evening, and were very merry, when Radcliffe thus began a health :—“ Here, brother Case, is to all the fools your patients.”—“ I thank you, good bro-

ther," replied Case; "let me have all the fools, and you are heartily welcome to the rest of the practice."

DR. DARWIN'S REPARTEE.

It is well known that Dr. Darwin had a considerable impediment in his speech. This, however, did not prevent many flashes of keen sarcastic wit. An apothecary, whose knowledge of his profession was, we trust, superior to his politeness, while receiving the doctor's instructions relative to a patient, observed what a pity it was that a man of his great abilities should stammer so much. "Not so much to be regretted as you suppose, sir," sputtered the doctor, "for it gives a man time to think before he speaks."

DR. SANGRADO.

The original Dr. Sangrado was one Philip Hecquet, M. D. a Frenchman, who practised in Abbeville, where he was born, and in Paris, where he died in 1773, aged 76.

He was a great advocate for the lancet and copious draughts of warm water—a practice which caused him to be immortalized in the romance of *Gil Blas*, under the name of Doctor Sangrado. He also observed considerable abstinence, having eat neither meat nor drank

wine for thirty years before his death. He published several works, &c.

"*C'est un erreur de penser que le sang soit nécessaire à la conservation de la vie; on ne peut trop saigner une malade;*"* are the words he is made to utter by the facetious Le Sage. And, with respect to low diet, he says, "*J'ai pour garants de mon sentiment, sur le régime maigre, les médecins les plus fameux tant anciens que moderns.*"† He appears, also, to have been a very conscientious practitioner, since he rigidly and consistently observes, "*loin d'imputer la mort du chanoine à la boisson et aux saignées, il sortit en disant, d'un air froid, qu' on ne lui avoit pas tiré assez de sang, ni fait boire assez d'eau chaude,*" &c.‡

SIR ROBERT TALBOT.

When this gentleman went to Versailles, for the purpose of trying the effects of the Peru-

* "It is an error to think that the blood is necessary for the preservation of life; a patient cannot be bled too much."

† "In support of my opinion, on low diet, I have the authority of the most eminent ancient and modern philosophers."

‡ "Far from laying the blame of the canon's death to drinking hot-water and bleeding, he went out, coolly observing, that enough blood had not been taken away;

vian bark* on the young dauphin, only son of Louis XIV. who had long been severely labouring under an intermittent fever, the physicians, who were about the prince, did not think proper to allow him to prescribe to their royal patient, until they had asked him some medical questions. Amongst others, they desired him to describe to them what an intermittent fever was? He replied, " Gentlemen, it is a disease which I can cure, and which you cannot."

THE ANTI-CONNUBIAL APOSTATE.

Thomas Brown, M. D., who died in 1683, was the author of a work entitled, " Religio Medici," a paradoxical book, translated into almost every language in Europe. He was of opinion, that love was a folly beneath the dignity of a philosopher: and says, " he could be content that we might procreate like trees without conjunction." This learned gentleman and platonic sentimentalist soon descended, however, from his philosophic dignity, and married an agreeable woman.

His reason for marrying was, " because he could discover no better method of procreation."

neither had he drank a sufficient quantity of warm-water."

* Monsieur D'Aquin, one of the French King's physicians, in his " Memoir on Bark," makes a rather unhappy

THE PREDICTION VERIFIED.

Dr. Garthshore, when a surgeon at Uppingham, in Rutland, wrote to Dr., afterwards Sir George Baker, exhorting him to "make a bold dash and come to London," which he did, probably in consequence of this invitation. In a subsequent letter, Sir George speaks of his own success, and of the gratification he had in hearing that Lord Sondes had said, that "Dr. Baker was a very able and learned man, who, he was sure, would rise to the head of his profession, and some day be physician to the king." This prediction was, in fact, verified; for he did actually become physician to the king, and was assuredly the most learned practitioner of his day.

LIEUTAND.

The first use this celebrated anatomist made of his appointment, as physician to the king, was to advise his majesty to be inoculated. Certainly, a very bold advice from a man, in particular, who was well acquainted with the

though curious blunder, by taking Mantissa, the title to the "Appendix to the History of Plants," by Johnstone, for the name of an author, "who," he says, "is so extremely rare, that he knows him only by name."

incredible fury with which it was then opposed. Notwithstanding that Lieutand had always been a stranger to the life and manners of a court, he soon, however, became a great favourite. One day, when the king was speaking to him of the many physicians whose abilities his courtiers had very much praised, he asked him whether these accounts were not very much exaggerated? "Sire," said he, "these physicians possess none of the qualities of which you have heard, but it is often with this kind of money that the gentlemen of the court pay their physicians."

SIR WILLIAM PETTY.

Of this singular genius, Evelyn furnishes us with the following anecdote:

"March 22, 1675, supped at Sir William Petty's with the Bishop of Salisbury, and divers honourable persons. We had a noble entertainment in a house gloriously furnish'd; the master and mistress of it were extraordinary persons. Sir William was the son of a meane man somewhere in Sussex, and went from schole to Oxon, where he studied philosophy, but was most eminent in mathematics and mechanics:*

* At the age of fifteen, he was master of many languages, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, navigation, and

proceeded doctor of physic, and was grown famous for his learning; so for his recovering a poor wench that had been hanged for felony; and her body having been begged (as the custome is) for the anatomic lecture, he bled her, put her to bed to a warm woman, and with spirits and other meanes restor'd her to life. The young scholars joyn'd and made her a little portion, and married her to a man who had several children by her, she living fifteen years after, as I have been assured."

MONSEY AND HINGESTONE.

Doctor Monsey used to ridicule his neighbour Hingestone, by asserting, that the nave of a wheel, in the motion of a carriage, turned twice round for every time the outer circle, at the end of the spokes, turned once. Though, in taking a front view of Monsey, he was very different, yet, in following Hingestone, there was a strik-

mathematics. He became afterwards an anatomist and chemist, had a fine hand for drawing, was a skilful mechanic, and a good surveyor; and, above all, understood political arithmetic better than any man of his age. He drew up an account of the wealth and expences of the nation, in a treatise, called "Verbum Sapienti," a curious contrast, with its present resources, when he estimates that "England can bear the enormous charge of *four millions per annum*, when the occasions of government require it."

ing resemblance in his wig, stooping, and gait. “ Is that Doctor Monsey ?” asked a gentleman of Chelsea, who mistook him for the doctor as he passed his window. “ I hope not,” said Hingestone, turning round as he spoke.

DEATH OF RABELAIS.

When Rabelais, who was a physician, was lying on his death-bed, and they had given him the extreme unction, a friend called and asked him, “ How he did ?” Rabelais answered, “ I am going my journey; they have greased my boots already.”

DR. A. KING'S INVITATION.

A proof of Hogarth's propensity to merriment, on the most trivial occasions, is observable on one of his cards, requesting the company of Dr. Arnold King to dine with him at the Mitre. Within a circle, to which a knife and fork are supporters, the written part is contained. In the centre is drawn a pie, with a mitre on the top of it; and the invitation of our artist concludes with the following sport on the Greek letters, to *eta, beta, pi*. The rest of the inscription is not very accurately spelt.

SIR CHARLES SCARBOROUGH,

Seeing the Duchess of Portsmouth eat to excess, said to her, with his usual frankness, “ Madam, I will deal with you as a physician should do; *you must eat less, use more exercise, take physic, or be sick.*”

THE THREE CHARACTERS OF A PHYSICIAN.

Enricus Cordus, who never received his fees till the termination of his patients’ disease, describes, in a facetious epigram, the practitioner at three different periods of his attendance, in three different characters.

Tres medicus habet facies, unam, quando rogatur,
Angelicam; mox est, cum juvat, ipse Deus.
Post ubi curato, poscit sua præmia, morbo,
Horridus appetet, terribilisque sathan.

Translated thus:

Three faces wears the doctor; when first sought
An angel’s!—and a god’s, the cure half wrought:
But when, that cure complete, he seeks his fee,
The Devil then looks less terrible than he.

CONVALESCENCE.

The following conversation once passed between Bouvart and a French marquis, whom he had attended during a long and severe indis-

position. One day, when the former called, he was thus addressed by the marquis:—"Good day to you, Mr. Bouvart; I feel quite in spirits, and think my fever has left me."—"I am sure of it," replied the doctor; "your very first expression convinced me of it."—"Pray explain yourself."—"Nothing more easy; in the first stage of your illness, when your life was in danger, I was *your dearest friend*; as you began to get better, I was *your good Bouvart*; and now, I am *Mr. Bouvart*. Depend upon it, you are quite recovered."

THE LAST RESOURCE.

A countryman condemned to be hanged, and about to suffer the sentence, sent for a surgeon; to whom he said:—"I have never been bled, sir; but, having heard it said, that the first letting of blood saves the life, I beg you to perform the operation on me."

WALPOLE AND MONSEY.

Sir Robert Walpole knew and valued the worth of his '*Norfolk doctor*,' as he called him. Monsey knew it, and neglected it. The prime-minister was fond of billiards, at which the doctor very much excelled him. "How happens it," said Sir Robert, in his social hour, "that

nobody will beat me at billiards, or contradict me, but Doctor Monsey?"—"Others," said the doctor, "get places; I get a dinner and praise."

DR. SYDENHAM

Tells a curious story of one of his patients, who had consulted him for a length of time, with very little relief to his complaint; when, at length, the doctor told him, that he could really do no more for him; but, that there was a Dr. Robinson, at Inverness, who was wonderfully clever in such complaints as his; that he would give him a letter to the physician, and, he was confident he would return cured. As the patient was a gentleman of fortune, he was soon enabled to set out on his journey. But, what was his surprise, when, on arriving at Inverness, he found there was no physician of that name, nor had there been, within the recollection of any inhabitant in the town. The patient returned, vowing every thing that was hostile to Dr. Sydenham. When he arrived he indignantly told the doctor that he thought he had used him very ill, to send him a journey of so many miles for nothing. "Well," says Dr. Sydenham, "are you in better health?"—"Yes," replied the gentleman, "I am well now, but no thanks to you."—"No!" returned the doctor, "but you may thank Dr. Robinson for

curing you. I wanted to send you a journey, with an object in view, which I knew would do you good; in going, you had Dr. Robinson in contemplation; and, in returning, you were equally busy in thinking about scolding me."

BEAUTY.

Euripides said of persons that were beautiful, and yet somewhat advanced in years, "In fairest bodies not only the spring is beautiful, but also the autumn."

CHEVALIER TAYLOR.

Among Dr. King's "Anecdotes of his Own Times," p. 131, he says, "I was at Tunbridge in 1758, where I met with the Chevalier Taylor, the oculist. He seems to understand the anatomy of the eye perfectly well; he has a fine hand and good instruments, and performs all his operations with great dexterity; but he undertakes every thing, (even impossible cases) and promises every thing. No charlatan ever appeared with fitter and more excellent talents, or to greater advantage; he has a good person, is a natural orator, and has a faculty of learning foreign languages. He has travelled over all Europe, and has always with him an equipage suitable to a man of the first quality, and has been introduced to most of the sovereign

princes, from whom he has received many marks of their liberality and esteem."

Dr. King has drawn his character in Latin, which begins

Hic est, hic vir est,
Quam docti, indoctique omnes impensè mirantur,

JOHANNES TAYLOR :

Cœcigenorum, cœcorum et cœcitentium
Quot quot sunt ubique,
Spes uncia. Solamen Salus.

Taylor is also alluded to in some lines addressed to the celebrated Mrs. Mapp.

Next, travell'd Taylor fill'd us with surprise,
Who pours new light upon the blindest eyes ;
Each journal tells his circuit through the land ;
Each journal tells the blessings of his hand ;
And, lest some hireling scribbler of the town
Injures his history, he writes his own.
We read the long accounts with wonder o'er ;
Had he wrote less, we had believed him more.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Wanted for a family, who have bad health, a sober, steady person, in the capacity of doctor, surgeon, apothecary, and man-midwife. He must occasionally act in the capacity of butler, and dress hair and wigs. He will be required to read prayers occasionally, and to preach a sermon every Sunday. The reason of this

advertisement is, that the family cannot any longer afford the expences of the physical tribe, and wish to be at a certain expence for their bodies and souls. A good salary will be given.

THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES.

I swear by Apollo, the physician, by Æsculapius, by his daughters Hygeïa and Pomarea, and by all the gods and goddesses, that, to the best of my power and judgment, I will faithfully observe this oath and obligation. The master that hath instructed me in the art, I will esteem as my parent, and supply, as occasion may require, with the comforts and necessaries of life. His children I will regard as my own brothers; and, if they desire to learn, I will instruct them in the same art without any reward or obligation. The precepts, the explanations, or whatever else belongs to the art, I will communicate to my own children, to the children of my master, to such other pupils as have subscribed to the physician's oath, and to no other persons. My patients shall be treated by me, to the best of my power and judgment, in the most salutary manner, without any injury or violence; I will neither be prevailed upon, by any other, to administer pernicious physic, or be the author of such advice myself.

Cutting for the stone I will not meddle with, but leave it to the operators in that way. To whatever house I am sent for, I will always make the patient's good my principal aim; avoiding, as much as possible, all voluntary injury and corruption. And, whatever I hear or see in the course of a cure, or otherwise, relating to the affairs of life, nobody shall ever know it, if it ought to remain a secret. May I be prosperous in life and business, and for ever honoured and esteemed by all men, as I observe this solemn oath; and may the reverse of all this be my portion, if I violate it, and forswear it.

ALCHEMY.

"Sir Edward Dyer, a grave and wise gentleman, actually believed in Kelly, the alchemist, and that he made gold, according to the report. Sir Edward even visited Germany, where Kelly then was, to satisfy himself fully of the fact. After his return, he dined with the Archbihsop of Canterbury; where he met Dr. Brown, the physician. The conversation turning on Kelly: Sir Edward Dyer, addressing the archbishop, said, "I do assure your grace, that that I shall tell you is truth; I was an eye-witness thereof; and, if I had not seen it, I should not have believed it. I saw Mr. Kelly put some of the base metal into the crucible,

anil after it was set a little upon the fire, and a very small quantity of medicine put in, and stirred with a stick of wood, it came forth, in great proportion, perfect gold; to the touch, to the hammer, and to the test." The Archbishop replied, " You had need take heed what you say, Sir Edward Dyer, for there is an infidel at the board." Sir Edward Dyer said again, pleasantly, " I should have looked for an infidel sooner any where than at your grace's table."—" What say you, Dr. Brown?" asked the archbishop. Dr. Brown answered, in his blunt and eccentric manner, " The gentleman has spoken enough for one."—" Why," said the archbishop, " what hath he said?"—" Marry," said Dr. Brown, " he said he would not have believed it except he had seen it; and no more will I."—(*Burnett's Own Times.*)

ASTRAGAL

Is the name of one of the bones which compose what is commonly call the instep. The etymology of the word is probably as follows:—The ancient gentry wore on their shoes a small half cross, at the place where we fasten our buckles. It was of ivory, in order to distinguish it from those worn by the vassals, which were of iron or steel. Cœlius Rhodiginus, a celebrated professor of Greek and Latin, at

Milan, in the fifteenth century, calls buckles of this kind *astragals*. The Latin word *astragalus* signifies that little bone which is at the end of the handle of a leg of mutton, and which has the appearance of a heel, whence comes this ancient adage, “noble to the heel.”

CHARLES DRELINCOURT, M. D.

The following tributary and elegant stanza is paid to the memory of Charles Drelincourt, who died in 1697.

Quel autre peut mieux, O Mortel!
Dans le Mort t'apprende a reviure,
Que celui qui, par ce Saint Liure,
S'est rendre lui-même immortel?

TRANSLATION.

Mortal! who can better save thy life,
When at Death's ghastly door you lie;
Than he who, by this holy book,
Is gone to immortality?

SINGULAR CUSTOM.

It is the custom in Savoy, says Menage, for him who is bled to receive presents. A young man, who had caused himself to be let blood, having received one from his sweet-heart, wrote to her,—“*I thank you for your present, for the wound of my arm; but not for that of my heart!*”

RADCLIFFE AND KNELLER.

Dr. Radcliffe was a man of great boldness and wit, which, not unfrequently, burst forth without respect either to place or person; even majesty itself was not exempted from it; and his neighbour, Sir Godfrey Kneller, when he threatened to shut up his garden-door, was answered by him, “ I care not what you do with it, Kneller, so long as you do not *paint* it!”

SALE OF THE BODY BEFORE DEATH.

The following curious Letter was found among the Papers of a Mr. Goldwyre, Surgeon, of Salisbury.

To Mr. EDWARD GOLDWYRE, at his House,
on the Close of Salisbury.

SIR,—Being informed that you are the only surgeon in this city, (or county) that anatomises men; and, I being under the present unhappy circumstances, and in a very mean condition, would gladly live as long as I can; but, by all appearance, I am to be executed next March, having no friends on earth that will speak a word to save my life, nor send me a morsel of bread, to keep life and soul together until that

fatal day; so, if you will vouchsafe to come hither, I will gladly sell you my body, (being whole and sound) to be ordered at your discretion; knowing that it will rise again at the general resurrection, as well from your house, as from the grave. Your answer, sir, will highly oblige,

Your's, &c.

JAMES BROOKE.

Fisherton-Anger Goal,

Oct. 3, 1736.

INGENIOUS SUBTERFUGE.

An astrologer, in the time of Lewis XI. extricated himself very ingeniously from danger. He had foretold to the king, that a lady whom he loved should die in eight days; which having happened, the prince caused the astrologer to be brought before him, and commanded his servants not to fail to throw him out at the window, at a signal which he would give them. As soon as the king saw him—"You, who pretend to be such a wise man," says he to him, "and who know so exactly the fate of others, tell me, this moment, what will be your's, and how long you have to live?" Whether it was the astrologer had been secretly informed of this design of the king, or that he guessed it:—"Sire," answered he, without

testifying any fear, “I shall die just three days before your majesty.”—The king, after that answer, was not in haste to give the signal for them to throw him out of the window:—on the contrary, he took particular care to let him want for nothing.

COMPUNCTIOUS VISITINGS.

It is said of a Swiss physician, that he never passed the church-yard of the place where he resided, without pulling forth his handkerchief from his pocket, and hiding his face with it.—Upon this circumstance being noticed by an acquaintance, he apologised for it, by saying,—“ You will recollect, sir, what a number of people there are, who have found their way hither under my directions:—Now, I am always apprehensive lest some of them, recognizing my features, should lay hold of me, and oblige me to take up my lodging along with them.”

DR. PITCAIRN, F. R. S.

Graduated at Glasgow, but, being anxious to obtain an English degree in physic, he entered at Benets college, Cambridge. He was subsequently elected physician to St. Bartholomew's and Christ's hospitals. The late Dr.

Matthew Baiilie was his most intimate friend; and he may be presumed to have attained the head of his profession, on the demise of Dr. Warren, in 1797. His own death, in 1800, was occasioned by the croup. He was interred, in St. Bartholomew's church, Smithfield, in a vault containing the remains of his uncle, and his father, the gallant Major John Pitcairn, who fell at the battle of Bunker's Hill.

PITCAIRN ON FEVER.

Dr. Pitcairn was a great enemy to quacks, of whom he used to say, that there were not such liars in the world, except their patients. A relation asking his opinion one day of a certain work on fevers, he observed, "I do not like fever curers; we may guide a fever—we cannot *cure* it. What would you think of a pilot who attempted to quell a storm? Either position is equally absurd. We must steer the ship as well as we can in a storm; and, in a fever, we can only employ patience and judicious measures to meet the difficulties of the case."

APOTHECARY DEFINED.

Guy Patin said, "*Animal bene faciens partes et lucrans mirabiliter*"; and adds, also, "they were formerly only the valets of physicians, but

that they were head valets, who gilded the pill
for themselves, and left the bitterness to the
physicians."

L'ASTHMA.

" Je viens vous conter mon chagrin,"—
Dit Pierrette a son medecin ;
" Mon mari devient astmatique!"—
Notre Aesculape lui replique :
" Rassurez vous ! on voit cette espèce de gens
Souffrir beaucoup, mais vivre tres long tems ;
Pour se debarrasser il faut qu'on les assome."—
Pierrete aussitôt s'ecria ;
" Monsieur ! faites que mon pauvre homme
Souffrir le moins qu'il se pourra."

TRANSLATION.

" O, my dear doctor ! you are wise ;
What can be done?"—old Bridget cries,
" My husband's got an *Asmany*,
And ev'ry hour he's like to die :"—
" Cheer up—good wife !—the man is safe enough ;"
Replies the sage,—" I know the case full well ;
These teasing, wheezing folk are dev'lish tough ;
'Tis true, they suffer like the damn'd in hell ;
But, ne'er expect to find them dead,
Unless you fairly knock them on the head."—
" Well! well!"—returns the wife,—" what must be, must ;
Dear doctor ! then to you I trust ;
O ! do—contrive to make my poor good man
Suffer—as little as you can!"
 " *Strenua nos exercet*" *Miseria* !

DR. MONSEY AND GARRICK.

Dr. Monsey was in habits of the closest intimacy with Garrick, whose fascinating powers of conversation and elegant manners were diametrically opposed to those of Monsey. The doctor, during a long intercourse with the great and gay, invariably maintained a plainness of deportment, which was by no means an unpleasing one, nor could he ever be persuaded to sacrifice sincerity at the shrine of abject flattery. He spoke the truth, and what sometimes gave offence, “the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, &c.,” which afforded frequent opportunity to ignorance and malignity in crying him down as a cynic; but it should be remembered, that his censure, though severe, was generally just; and that his shafts were directed against vice, folly, and affectation. This difference of manners between him and Garrick, was productive of a mutual, but by no means an unfriendly, interchange of railing. To raise a laugh at the doctor’s expence, was the amusement of many an hour at Hampton.

Garrick, one evening on his return from Drury-lane, where he had been performing,

told the doctor, that wishing to see a favourite scene acted by a performer at Covent Garden, then very popular, he had slipped from his own stage slyly, and trusted an underling actor, known by the name of Dagger Marr, to supply his place for a few minutes, which was only to stand silent and aloof, and that he had returned soon enough to resume his part in the dialogue of the scene.

The doctor credulously swallowed the story, and readily circulated it with much delight; the town enjoyed the joke, and he was heartily laughed at for his pains.

Those who were acquainted with Garrick, admired and esteemed him; but they universally confessed, that, notwithstanding he eagerly sought and enjoyed a joke *at another man's expence*, he was nettled if it was raised at *his own*. Monsey frequently retorted with success. The little manager was sore, and lapsed, on one particular occasion, into an unjustifiable asperity of reply, that called forth the latent spark of resentment from the doctor.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man (Dr. Hildesley, who preceded Dr. Wilson) one day observed that Garrick certainly meant to quit the stage: "He never will do it," said Monsey, "as long as he knows a guinea is crop on the one side,

and pile on the other."* This expression from the doctor was industriously circulated. The violence with which it was resented proved that it was true; and the long acquaintance that existed between these two celebrated gentlemen, was closed by an anonymous letter sent by Garrick, containing the frequently-quoted extract from Horace:—

"Absentem qui radit amicum," &c. &c.

a sentiment, which Garrick ought to have been the last man to quote, as the eccentric oddities of his friend, as he used to term them, afforded him constant food, at all times and places, for ridiculous anecdote.

Intimate friends are said to make the most inveterate enemies; and Garrick, by his repeated and widely-diffused sarcasm, certainly embittered the enmity. Severe recrimination, fomented by the ill-timed interference of officious meddlers, who enjoyed the quarrel, subsisted to the last. There were some unfinished stanzas, penned by the doctor, during Garrick's illness, on which occasion many physicians had been called in. As soon as Garrick

* A proverbial expression in Norfolk, nearly similar to one used in some parts of France, "*tete ou pile*," head or tail.

died, which Monsey did not expect, they were instantly destroyed, and he could never be prevailed upon to repeat them. The following, from recollection, prove how satirical they must have been :

Hæsit lateri lethalis arundo.

“ Seven wise physicians lately met,
To serve a wretched sinner ;
Come Tom, says Jack, pray let's be quick,
Or I shall lose my dinner.”

The consultation then begins, and the case of the patient is stated ; after which follows :

“ Some roar'd for rhubarb, jalap some,
And some cried out for Dover ;
Let's give him something, each man said—
Why e'en let's give him—over !”

This desperate counsel is, however, rejected by one of the medical sages, who, after some reflections on the life and habits of the patient, declares that he has great confidence in chinks, adding—

“ Not dried up skinks, you ninnies ;
The chinking that I recommend,
's the famous chink of guineas.”

After this, a humourous altercation ensues, to determine, by whom this auricular applica-

tion of the purse should be made; with humility and politeness towards each other, for which physicians are so remarkable, each declines the honour to the superior rank of his neighbour. But the poet shrewdly guesses that this backwardness arose from the majority of them not chusing to exhibit the comfortless state of their pockets. At length a physician, in high repute, prides himself in his purse replenished with guineas, which he had weighed, found above standard weight, and had not returned to his patients as light: in the moment of exultation he exclaims—

“ I and my long tales seldom fail
To earn a score a day.”

After due solemnity, he approaches the bedside; the curtain is withdrawn, and the glittering gold shaken at the sick man’s ear.

“ Soon as the fav’rite sound he heard,
One faint effort he try’d:
He op’d his eyes, he stretched his hand,
He made one grasp and dy’d.”

Lord Bath made a vain attempt to reconcile these two old friends:—“ I thank you,” cried Monsey; but why will your lordship trouble yourself with the squabbles of a merry-andrew and a quack-doctor?”

SIR RICHARD JEBB.

This eminent physician used to tell a story of himself, which made even rapacity comical. He was attending a nobleman, from whom he had a right to expect a fee of five guineas: he received only three. Suspecting some trick on the part of the steward, from whom he received it, he, at the next visit, contrived to drop three guineas. They were picked up, and again deposited in his hand; but he still continued to look on the carpet. His lordship asked if all the guineas were found. "There must be two still on the floor," replied Sir Richard, "for I have but three." The hint was taken as he meant.

CIRCULATION OF THE BLOOD.

There is a passage in a work called "*Christianissimi Mestitesto*," written by Servetius, which has been supposed to have given Harvey the first idea of the circulation of the blood. The following memorable account, however, has been given by Boyle, of the circumstances which first led to this important discovery:—

"I remember," says Boyle, "that when I asked our famous Harvey, in the only discourse I had with him, which was but a little while before he died, what were the things which induced him to think of a circulation in the

blood? he answered me, that when he took notice that the valves in the veins of so many parts of the body were so placed, that they gave free passage to the blood towards the heart, but opposed the passage of the venal blood the contrary way, he was invited to think that so provident a cause as nature had not placed so many valves without design; and no design seemed more probable than that, since the blood could not well, because of the interposing valves, be sent by the veins to the heart, it should be sent through the arteries and return through the veins, whose valves did not oppose its course that way.”*

“ SOLA VIRTUS NOBILITAS.”

There is no species of pride, that sits worse upon a gentleman, than the pride of being merely of high birth, which can never confer talents or great abilities.

For the sake of elucidating the context, Sheridan's father may be instanced, who was an

* In allusion to those who were disposed to dispute with Harvey the claim commonly assigned to him among the improvers of science, Dr. William Hunter observes, that after the discovery of the valves in the veins, which Harvey learned while in Italy, from his master, Fabricius ab Aquapendente, the remaining step might easily have been made by any person of common abilities.

itinerant lecturer, and who earned his living, as well as he could, by shewing—that people should call b. a. y. o. n. e. t, *bagnet*, and s. e. r. v. a. n. t, *sarvant*, and other pleasant little curiosities; yet, we regret to say, that even *Sherry*, after he rose in life, had too much of this description of petty pride about him. When the late Sylvester Douglas, who was a very respectable and decent man, well and honestly employed in various departments, in the course of which he translated a poem, called—*Reciardetto*, was made a lord, by the title of Glenbervie, Sheridan, while playing at cards, asked “What’s his title?”—“Glenbervie,” was the answer; on which he spoke the following indefensible verse while playing his game:—

“ Glenbervie, Glenbervie,
What’s good for the scurvy?
But why is the Doctor forgot?
In his arms he should quarter
A pestle and mortar,
For his crest an immense gallipot.”

WILLIAM BUTTER.

Dr. —— was one day introduced to William Butter, a man of singular and coarse manners, when the latter remarked “There was a fellow of your name at Edinburgh when I was a pupil there, are you his son?”—“No, Sir, I

am his nephew."—"Nephew ! Well, has he any children?"—"Only one, Sir, remaining."—"Remaining ! What, has he lost any ?"—"Yes, Sir."—"Did they die young ?"—"Yes, Sir."—"Then he must go to the devil!"

DR. JENNER.

While Dr. Jenner was dining with a large party at Bath, something was introduced at the table which required to be warmed by being applied to the candle, and doubts were expressed by several persons present, whether the most speedy way would be to keep the flame at a little distance under, or to immerse the substance into it. Jenner desired the candle to be placed near him, and immediately putting his finger into the flame, suffered it to remain some time: next, he put his finger above it, but was obliged to snatch it away immediately. "This, gentlemen," said he, "is a sufficient test." The next day he received a note from General Smith, who had been of the party on the preceding day, and who was, before that time, an utter stranger, offering him an appointment in India, which would ensure him, in the course of two or three years, an annuity of 3000*l.* The offer was referred to his brother, and Dr. Jenner, from his attachment to him, declined it.

SIR WILLIAM READ,

(A quack doctor,) died in 1715. He was knighted by Queen Anne, on which occasion the following lines were written on him, by Mr. Gwinnett :—

“ The queen, like heaven, shines equally on all,
Her favours now without distinction fall.
Great Read, and Slender Hannes, both knighted, show
That none their honours shall to merit owe.
That popish doctrine is exploded quite,
Or Ralph had been no duke, and Read no knight ;
That none may *virtue* or their *learning* plead,
This has no *grace* and that can hardly *read*.

SURGEON AND ASTRONOMER.

The king of France, one day, had need of being let blood. A young surgeon, who had come to his court, in a vessel belonging to our East-India Company, was appointed to take five ounces of this precious blood. The Astronomer of the quarter cried out, that “ the life of the King would be endangered, if he were to be bled in the present state of the heavens.” The young man could have replied, that he only acted according to the state of the King’s health; but he prudently waited some minutes, and taking his almanack, “ You are in the right, great Sir,” said he to the Astronomer, “ the King would have died, if he had been bled at

the instant you spoke—the heavens have changed since that time, and it is now a favourable moment :”—The Astronomer was convinced, and the King bled and cured. By degrees, it has become customary to bleed the kings like their subjects, when they require it.

TO JOANNES TAYLOR.

In optica expertissimes, multisque in Academiis celeberrimus Membrum.

The following encomia cede nothing to the former.

Effigiem Taylor, tibi qui demissus ab alto est,
Turba alias expers triminis, ecce vides.

Hic maculas tollit, CATARACTUS depremit omnes
Amissam splendens excitat ille jubar.

Mirandâ praxi sublata OPHTHALMIA quævis,
Artifici dextræ GUTTA SERENA cedit:
Ecce verum ! cujus cingantur tempora lauro,
Dignum, cui laudes sæcula longa canant.

JOHN BELCHIER.

In the Gentleman's Magazine, January 21, 1743, we find the following circumstance related of the above gentleman: “One Captain Wright, who, as a patient, came to Mr. Belchier, a surgeon, in Sun-Court; being alone with him in a room, clapt a pistol to his breast, demanding his money. Mr. Belchier offered him two guineas, which he refused; but accepting of six guineas and a gold watch, as he was putting them in his pocket, Mr. B. took the opportunity

to pounce upon him, and, after a scuffle, secured him."

Mr. Belchier related this affair to Mr. Cline, in the following manner: Wright, it seemed, called upon him with a pretended complaint once before, and, on a second visit, when Mr. B. assured him he had nothing the matter with him, he replied, that that was not all his business, that he wanted his money. Mr. B. had, as was usual with him, bolted the door on the inside. It happened that there were some picture-frames on the floor, and, when Belchier had given his money, the man lowered his pistol, on which Belchier knocked him backwards among the picture-frames, and held him till the coachman got in at the window.

Mr. Belchier was a stout, strong, heavy man. A few hours before he died, he fell on the floor; when his man-servant, not being able to lift him, offered to go for help, he said, "No, John, I am dying; fetch me a pillow, I may as well die here as any where else;" and shortly afterwards he expired.

GENEROSITY AND BENEVOLENCE.

A surgeon, in bleeding a lady of quality, had the misfortune to prick an artery; the result of which was the death of the patient. In making her will, she had the generosity to leave

the surgeon, who was extremely affected, as may well be supposed, a life-annuity of eight hundred livres, as much for the purpose, said the will, of consoling him, as to oblige him never again to bleed any body so long as he lived.

There is a similar instance almost to the above in the Journal Encyclopedique of the 15th of January, 1773.—A Polish Princess having experienced the same misfortune, two days before her death, she caused the following to be inserted in her will:—

“ Convinced of the injury that my unfortunate accident will occasion to the unhappy surgeon who is the cause of my death, I bequeath to him a life-annuity of two hundred ducats, secured by my estate, and forgive his mistake from my heart: I wish that this may indemnify him for the discredit which my sorrowful catastrophe will bring upon him.”

JEAN BAPTISTE VERDUC, M.D.

Par de nouveau secrets cet excellent genie,
Penetre la nature, et explique ses ressorts;
Et ce qu'il nous apprend pour la santé du corps,
En prolongeant nos jours éternise sa vie.*

* By means of new secrets, this excellent genius penetrates nature, and explains her resources; and that what he teaches us for the health of the body, by lengthening our days, immortalizes his life.

LINES ON THE TOMB OF DR. JENNER.

Within this tomb hath found a resting-place
The great physician of the human race,—
Immortal JENNER!—Whose gigantic mind
Brought life and health to more than half mankind.
Let rescued infancy his worth proclaim,
And lisp out blessings on his honour'd name;
And radiant beauty drop one grateful tear,
For beauty's truest friend lies buried here.

A DANGEROUS BLEEDER.

The Maréchal de ——— being on a journey, found himself so unwell, that he was obliged to stop at a little village to let blood. The surgeon of the place was sent for, whose embarrassed manner did not inspire much confidence to the patient. However, the Maréchal gave his arm; which he withdrew a little, when it was on the point of being pricked. "It seems to me," said the surgeon, "that my lord is afraid of bleeding."—"No, not of bleeding, but of the bleeder," replied the Maréchal.

DR. RADCLIFFE'S SECRET.

Radcliffe said to Dr. Mead, one day,—“Mead, I love you; and now I will tell you a sure secret to make your fortune—use all mankind ill.” It was reported of him, that he was avaricious, and would never pay his bills without a great deal of importunity. A paviour, to whom he



EDWARD JENNER, M.D.



owed some money, caught him one day just as he was getting out of his chariot, at his own door, in Bloomsbury-square, and commenced dunning him. "Why, you rascal," said the doctor, "do you pretend to be paid for such a piece of work? Why, you have spoiled my pavement, and then covered it over with earth to hide your bad work."—"Doctor," returned the paviour, "Mine is not the only bad work the earth hides."—"You dog, you," said the doctor, "are you a wit? if you are, you must be poor—come in and get paid."

THE CHARIOT OF ANTIMONY.

Basil Valentine, who lived towards the end of the fifteenth century, published a singular work, which he called "*Currus Triumphalis Antimonii*." Valentine ranks among the first who introduced metallic preparations into medicine; and is supposed to have been the first who ever used the word antimony. In his "*Currus Triumphalis Antimonii*," after setting forth the chemical preparations of that metal, he enumerates their medicinal effects. According to the prevailing custom of the age in which he lived, he boasts of supernatural assistance; and his work furnishes a good specimen of the controversial disputes between the chemical physicians and those of the school of Galen; the

former being attached to active, the latter to more simple and inert remedies.

Valentine's "Chariot of Antimony" opens with the most pious exhortations to prayer and contemplation, to charity, and benevolence. But soon forgetting himself, he breaks out in the following strain of virulence and invective : — "Ye wretched and pitiful medicasters, who, full of deceit, breathe out I know not what ; Thrasonick brags ! infamous men ! more mad than Bacchanalian fools ! who will neither clean nor dirty your hands with coals ! you titular doctors, who write long scrolls of receipts ! you apothecaries, who, with your decoctions, fill pots, no less than those in princes' courts, in which meat is boiled for the sustenance of some hundreds of men ! you, I say, who have hitherto been blind, suffer a collyrium to be poured into your eyes, and permit me to anoint them with balsam, that this ignorance may fall from your sight, and that you may behold truth as in a clear glass !" (*veluti in speculum.*)

After continuing in this strain for some time, he says, "But I will put an end to my discourse, lest my tears, which are continually falling from my eyes, should blot my writing ; and, whilst I deplore the blindness of the world, blemish the lamentation which I would publish to all men."

DR. LIONEL LOCKYER.

This noted empiric died in 1672. The following stanza and epitaph are reminiscences of his character :

“ The true effigies here you may behold,
Of him who, for preventing others ill,
Hath gained a medici. ~~ar~~ exceeding gold,
And known, to all the world, for Lockyer’s pill.”

His Epitaph records, that

“ His virtues and his pills are so well-known,
That envy can’t confine them under stone;
But they’ll survive his dust, and not expire
Till all things else, at the universal fire.
This verse is lost; his pills embalm him safe
To future times, without an epitaph.”

THE ABBÉ DE VOISENON.

In a disorder which the little Abbé de Voisenon had, his physician expressly ordered him to drink a quart of ptisan per hour. The doctor, on his visit the next day, asked him, “ What effect the ptisan had produced?”—“ Not any,” replied the abbé. “ Have you taken it all?”—“ I could not take more than half of it.” The physician appeared very dissatisfied, and almost angry; when the abbé said to him, in a soft and languishing voice, “ Ah! my friend, how can you desire me to swallow a quart an hour? I hold but a pint.”

FRIEND WALKER.

The following singular Letter was written by Dr. Walker, who accompanied the British Expedition into Egypt, for the Purpose of extending Vaccination.

“ John Walker to friends Pemberton, Hewit, and Gibson.

“ Health and peace be multiplied unto you, inasmuch as I intend to sojourn, for a while, in the land of Judea; and having already a companion to go with me thither, who is an inhabitant of Bethlem Judea, I turn to you, to request that you will commit to remembrance, that any letter sent for me to that ship of the king’s, which is by interpretation called “the Thunderer,” and whose sign is the eagle of Jupiter, will be likely to reach us in whatever part of my journeying it may be. The letters I sent to Joseph were directed to the care of the wife of him who commanded this ship, and may yet be in her keeping; if so, it will be pleasant unto her if ye call on her, and take them into your charge. Farewell.

“ Written at Rosetta, on the 18th day of the 6th month, in the 41st year of the king, when his armies came from afar, from the east and from the west, and encompassed Cairo about; together with the armies of the Arabians and the Egyptians, and the Syrians, and they that dwell in the land round about the Hellespont,

and in the isles thereof, from the rising even to the going down of the sun in the Adriatic. And behold the fall of the city ! will it not be shortly written in the chronicles of the king? and, also, the world shall hear the report thereof."

JUST DISCRIMINATION.

M. Boudou, an eminent surgeon, was one day sent for by the Cardinal du Bois, prime-minister of France, to perform a very serious operation upon him. The cardinal, on seeing him enter the room, said to him, " You must not expect, sir, to treat me in the same rough manner as you treat the poor miserable wretches at your hospital of the Hotel Dieu."—" My lord," replied M. Boudou, with great dignity, " every one of those miserable wretches, as your eminence is pleased to call them, is, in my eyes, a prime-minister."

APOTHECARY'S-HALL AT MOSCOW.

The Apothecaries-hall at Moscow was one of the most beautiful, the most rich, and the most useful establishments in Europe. This building was extensive and elevated ; on one side was the dispensary, and on the other the departments of the president and his different offices. Two other wings served for the laboratory and the library, with a cabinet of Na-

tural History. The president had under him several officers, who were themselves at the head of numerous deputies; his power extended formerly to the punishment of death over those under his direction. All the physicians, the surgeons, the apothecaries, and the druggists, received their salaries at these offices. The number of those employed in the service of this establishment was very considerable.

LE CHIMISTE.

J'eus du ciel en nourissant d'assez grands avantages;
 J'eus toute sorte d'héritages :
 Dans le feu cependant j'ai consumé mon bien,
 Après cent métamorphoses—
 Dieu fît toutes choses de rien,
 Et moi rien de toutes choses.

Translation.

God his almighty pow'r display'd,
 When he from nothing all things made:
 With crucibles to work I went,
 And in the fire a fortune spent;
 Reversing just what He had wrought,
 I every thing to nothing brought.

THE PREDICTION.

A man in an apoplectic fit made his will; he was in perfect possession of his senses, but he could only say yes or no, in reply to the notary's questions. He reckoned the amount which the legacies made by his fingers. The

heirs at law disputed the validity of the will, on the ground that the testator was in an unsound state of mind: but it was confirmed by the sentence of the parliament of Paris. If the anecdote that is related concerning the death of L——, the famous painter, who died at Loudon in 1682, is true, it must be acknowledged, that the medical is not always a conjectural art. A celebrated physician, a friend of L——, happened to visit him while in his laboratory. After looking him in the face, he conjured him to quit his work instantly, assuring him that his health was in great danger. L—— laughed at the advice, but he died of apoplexy within an hour after. How happens it, that the name of this physician has not been preserved?

COXCOMBS OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

" Each son of Sol, to make him look more big,
Had on a large, grave, decent, three-tail'd wig:
His clothes full-trimm'd, with button-holes behind,
Stiff were the skirts, with buckram stoutly lin'd;
The cloth-cut velvet, or more reverend black,
Full made, and powder'd half-way down his back;
Large decent cuffs, which near the ground did reach
With half-a-dozen buttons fixed on each.
Grave were their faces, fixed in solemn state!
These men struck awe; their children carried weight.
In reverend wigs old heads young shoulders bore
And twenty-five or thirty seem'd three-score."

APPELLATIONS DEFINED.

Lanfranc, an eccentric though not less erudite surgeon, notwithstanding his *outré* ideas on some unimportant subjects, studied under William Saliceto, at Milan, and afterwards became professor of medicine and surgery at the same place, and was sent, as early as 1295, to Paris, to read public lectures on surgery, and to demonstrate the operations. He defines the word *physicus* to imply a physician; *medicus*, a physician-operator or physician-surgeon; and *laicus*, a barber-surgeon, whom collectively he also calls "*chirurgi barberii*," by way of derision and contempt, blames the physicians for allowing them to practice. "Formerly," he observes, "physicians exercised the operations of surgery, and did not think it beneath them to bleed their patients themselves; but now it is given up into the hands of the barbers. As for me, I always bleed my patients with my own hand, and do it more skilfully than the most famous barbers."

Bleeding, about half a century ago, was considered as the exclusive province of the surgeon, and the lancet decidedly a surgical instrument; for, in the year 1749, we find the good surgeon Goodman writing against the "abuse of phlebotomy, by barbers and other

unskilful persons." At that time our worthy forefathers went through a course of bleeding and physicking *spring* and *fall*. It was then, in fact, as usual for a person to call on a practitioner and lose blood, as it is now to take a dose of Epsom salts. We are informed, that Sir Cæsar Hawkins, who retired with an ample fortune about forty years ago, netted a thousand guineas per annum by the use of his lancet alone.

APOPLEXY CURED.

Father Malebranche mentioned, in the Academy of Sciences, that a man who had fallen into an apoplectic fit was recovered by several elysters of coffee.

THE RIVAL DOCTORS.

Dr. Cheyne always enforced the doctrines he taught, by his personal example. This conduct created him a host of enemies, who attacked, but never defeated, their intrepid antagonist; and the following *jeux d'esprits*, though often related, prove the assertion:—

DR. WYNTER TO DR. CHEYNE, BATH.

Tell me from whence, fat-headed Scöt!
Thy system thou didst learn;
From Hippocrate, thou hadst it not,
Nor Celsus, nor Pitcairn.

What, though we own that milk is good,*
 And say the same of grass,
 The one—for babes is proper food,
 The other—for an ass.

Doctor—a new prescription try—
 A friend's advice forgive;
 Eat grass—reduce your head—or die,
 Your patients then may live.

DR. CHEYNE'S REPLY.

My system, doctor—is all my own,
 No tutor I pretend;
 My blunders hurt myself alone,
 But your's—your dearest *Friend*. †

Were you once more to straw confin'd,
 How happy might it be—
 You would, perhaps, regain your mind,
 Or from your *wit* get free.

I can't your new prescription try,
 But easily forgive;
 'Tis nat'ral you should bid me die,
 That you yourself may live.

BLACKSMITH-OCULIST.

Chesselden, who is well-known, among other things, as having been surgeon to the queen, (Caroline) of George the Second, as well as surgeon to St. Thomas's hospital, going into an

* He wrote an Essay on Long Life, wherein he recommends a milk diet to all valitudinarians.

† Dr. W. pretended that Dr. Friend was his tutor.

obscure country-town, found a blacksmith, who, with the best intention and utmost confidence, was in the habit of performing the operation for extracting the cataract. Pleased with his talents, our celebrated surgeon took pains to instruct him; and, at a future time, enquiring what had been his success? the man replied, "Ah, sir, you spoilt my trade, for after you explained to me what I had been doing, I never dared try again."

DR. JOHN ARBUTHNOT,

A favourite physician of Queen Anne, the friend of Swift and Pope, possessed, it is said, all the wit of the dean, without any of his virulence and indelicacy, and a considerable portion of the genius of Pope without his querulous discontent. When a young man, he attempted to settle, as a physician, at Dorchester, a town remarkable for its healthy situation, a circumstance unpropitious to the profitable practice of physic. On quitting it, a friend met him riding post to London—"Where are you going, Arbuthnot?" was a natural question: "to leave," replied Arbuthnot, "your confounded place, for a man can neither live nor die there."

Arbuthnot affords a striking proof how little misfortune can derange or exhaust the internal

resources of a good man ; for, " I am as well," says he, in a letter written a few weeks before he died, " as a man can be who is gasping for breath, and has a house full of men and women unprovided for;" every branch of his family, nevertheless, passed through life with competence and honour.

DR. BELLYSE.

Dr. Bellyse has been a sportsman upwards of forty years; and, next to his profession, has peculiarly devoted himself to cocking, coursing, and the race-course. His grey-hounds have long distinguished themselves by their speed and true running ; and he continues to breed from that well-known dog, *Champion*, the property of Captain Lidderdale. His cocks have been equally good ; and he is one of the few who have preserved the pure breed of those dangerous high-flying birds, called " Cheshire Piles," for which that county has been so long famed in the annals of the sod ; and which were so freely backed in the well-contested mains of Sir Peter Warburton, Sir Windsor Hunlocke, Lord Mexborough, &c. &c. The doctor had only one of these cocks in his last main, but he was backed at odds, and won his battle cleverly.

It is, however, as a handicapper, of race-

horses, that Dr. Bellyse stands so pre-eminent; having, it is supposed, put horses nearer together, on various occasions, than any other man of his day. Here the doctor has an advantage, not merely from observation and judgment, but from possessing the clearest recollections of past events, and knowing the pedigree, performance, and qualities of almost every horse in England. One instance will be sufficient, in confirmation of his ability in this difficult department of sporting.

At Newcastle-under-Lyme, in the year 1820, the following horses were handicapped by him:

	<i>st. lbs.</i>
Sir John Egerton's Astbury, 4 years old	8 6
Mr. Mytton's Handel, 4 years.....	7 11
Sir W. Williams Wynne's Tarragon, 4 years ..	8 0
Sir Thomas Stanley's Cedric, 3 years	6 13

The horses came in as follows :

Of the first three heats there was no winner; Tarragon and Handel being nose and nose; and though Astbury is stated to have been third the first heat, yet he was so nearly on a level with the others, that it was difficult to place him where he was. After the second heat, Mr. Littleton, who was steward, requested the doctor, and two other gentlemen, to look steadfastly at the horses, and try to decide in favour of one of them, but it was impossible so to do. In

the third dead heat, Tarragon and Handel had struggled with each other till they reeled about like drunken men, and could scarcely support their riders to the scales. Astbury, who had lain by after the first heat, then came up and won; and, it is generally believed, that the annals of the turf cannot produce such a race as this.

DR. GLYNN.

The annexed *jeu d'esprit*, were his portrait not a visible evidence against him, proves that Robert Glynn, M.D. did not possess the most fascinating physiognomy. This gentleman studied medicine, but, he preferred a college life to practice in his profession. After having been the favourite of society sixty-three years, for his wit, learning, and interesting fund of anecdotes, he died in 1800, aged eighty-two.

This morning, quite dead, Tom was found in his bed,
Altho' he was hearty last night;
But, 'tis thought, having seen Dr. Glynn in a dream,
That the poor fellow died of the fright.

DR. BROCKLESBY AND THE VALET.

Dr. Brocklesby, (perhaps, best known as the medical friend of Dr. Johnson,) being sent for, by the Duchess of Richmond, to see her woman, who was, as the duchess used herself to relate, so ill as to be confined to her bed,

was met, in the hall, by the duke's valet, the woman's husband, and who, either by nature or locality, was as warm a politician as the doctor. Public affairs being then peculiarly critical, they became so interested in debate, that the patient was little thought of, as they ascended the stairs; nor did the conversation relax when they reached the sick-woman's chamber. In short, they both left the room, returned down-stairs, and the doctor quitted Richmond-house, without either being aware that they neither of them had looked at the patient, or spoken to her, or of her.

DR. FOTHERGILL AND MR. GRENVILLE.

At the commencement of the American war, Mr. Grenville, then in power, wishing to know how the quaker colonists stood affected, sent a message to Dr. Fothergill, intimating that he was indisposed, and desiring to see him in the evening. The doctor came; and his patient immediately entering on the popular topic of American affairs, drew from him the information he wanted. The conversation lasted through a large portion of the evening; and it was concluded by Mr. Grenville's saying, he found himself so much better, for the doctor's visit, that he would not trouble him to prescribe. In parting, Mr. Grenville slipt five guineas

into the doctor's hand, which Fothergill surveying, said, with a dry arch tone, "at this rate, friend, I will spare thee an hour now and then."

DANGEROUS DESPOTISM.

The beautiful Austrigilda, wife of Gontran, King of Burgundy and Orleans, son of Clo-thaire, on her death-bed requested of her husband, that the two physicians who had attended her in her illness, and to whose remedies she pretended ought to be attributed the loss of her life, should be buried with her. He had the weakness to promise it to her, and the cruelty to keep his word. They are, perhaps, the only physicians who have had the honour of burial in the sepulchre of kings.

JEAN FERNEL.

C'est une opinion repandue qu'il guerit la sterilité de Catherine de Medicis.* Henry is reported to have said to him, " Monsieur le Medecin, ferez vous bien des enfans à ma femme?"† To which Fernel replied, " C'est à vous à les faire, et à moi à y apporter ce qui

* It was the current opinion that he cured the barrenness of Catherine de Medicis.

† Sir, will you make some children for my wife?

est de la medecin ordinaire de Dieu pour le remede des infirmités humains;* and, it is added, “ ce qui réussit si bien, qu’ après dix ans de sterilité, la reine donna à cet invincible monarque, cinq ou six enfans, qui valurent dix milles écus chacun à ce savant medecin!”†

LINNÆUS.

From a slender beginning this great naturalist rose to ease and affluence. Conceiving that he had no taste for literary pursuits, his father purposed binding him to a shoemaker, which assuredly would have been his destined occupation, had not Dr. Rothman, a neighbouring physician, interfered, and who, by discovering the natural turn of his mind, supplied him with botanical books, and instructed him in the first rudiments of physic.

In his botanical excursions, this great philosopher and observer of nature, was always attended with a band of trumpets and French horns, and usually sallied out at the head of

* It is your place to make them, and mine to do every thing, under the blessing of God, of which our art is capable, for the cure of human infirmities.

† Which succeeded so well, that, after a barrenness of ten years, the queen gave, to this invincible monarch, five or six children, which were worth about ten thousand crowns each to this learned physician.

two or three hundred students, whom he divided into detached companies. Whenever he felt inclined, either from accident or design, to explain any curious plant, bird, or insect, which had either fallen under his own notice, or was brought to him by any of his followers, the stragglers were called together by the sound of music; when, crowding round their eminent master, they listened, in respectful silence, with the most profound admiration, while he delivered his observations.

CULPABLE NEGLECT.

A young surgeon, soon after his election, had occasion to take off a limb at St. Thomas's hospital, but, in the hurry of business, neglected to secure the vessels. The patient, of course, expired soon after he was conveyed to bed. It will naturally be matter of astonishment that such an omission could escape the notice of the experienced practitioners at the young man's elbow; under these feelings, &c. Chesselden wrote as follows:

"Poor ———! he did as well as he could,
The crowd who stood round him were guilty of blood!"

Which shews that although he was the first operator in his day, he did not equal Pope in his numbers.

DR. HOSTRESHAM.

Nicholas Hostresham, a physician, who flourished at the end of the fourteenth century, was held in high esteem among the nobility, as well for his conversation as his medical skill.—Chaucer, a contemporary poet, alludes to him, in the prologue to his “*Canterbury Tales*,” among the various personages who compose the respectable company of pilgrims, at the sign of the Taberde; by introducing, in the following manner, a physician, whom he characterises a *doctor of physic*.

CHAUCER'S DOCTOR OF PHYSIC.

With us there was a doctor of physik,
 In al the worldé was ther non hym lyk,
 To speke of physik and of surgerye;
 For he was groundit in Astronomy.
 He kept his pacient a ful gret del
 In hourys by his magyk naturel;
 Wel couth he fortunen the ascendent
 Of his ymagys for his pacient.
 He knew the cause of ev'ry maladye,
 Were it or hot or cold, or moist or drye,
 Where they engendere, and of what humour,
 He was a veray parfyte practysour.
 The cause yknowe, and of his harm the rote,
 Anon he yaf, * to the syk man his bote. †
 Full redy had he his apothecayres,
 To sendyn him his droggis, and leterwayres, ‡

* Gave.

† Remedy.

‡ Electuaries.

For eche of hem made other for to wynne,
Her * frenschepe was not nowé to begynne,

Wel knew he old Esculapius,
And Dioscordes, and eke Rufus,
Old Hypocras, Lylie, and Galien,
Serapion, Razis, and Avycen,
Averois, Damascyen, and Constantyn,
Bernard, and Gadeleun, and Gilbertyn.

Of his diete mesurable was he,
For it was non of superfuite,
But of gret nuryschyng, and digestible:
His study was but lytyl in the Bible.
In sanguyn † and in perse‡ he clad was al
Lined with taffata and with sendal; §
And yit he was but easy of dispense,
He kepté that he won in pestelence;
For gold in physik is a cordial;
Therefore he lovede gold in special.

This curious personage is represented as qualified to speak of surgery as well as physic; though the practice of it was a separate branch then as well as now, as we know by the example of the celebrated surgeon Ardern, || who flourished at that time.

* Their. + Blood Colour.

‡ A fine silken stuff. § A bluish-grey, or sky-colour.

|| An early writer, whose works are noticed by Dr. Friend. He was a surgeon of great experience, and the

The fundamental science on which his knowledge was built, is said to have been *astronomy*; by which is understood that fanciful part of it called astrology. By the aid of this art he was enabled to make election of fortunate hours for the administration of his remedies, and to calculate the nativities of his patients, in order to discover which of the heavenly bodies was lord of the ascendant at their birth; and likewise, by *magic natural*, to make sigils or characters stamped in metal, with the signature of that constellation which governed this part of the body where the disease was seated.

first who is recorded as having become eminent in that branch among our countrymen; that his residence was in the town of Newcastle, from the year 1348 to 1370, when he removed to London, whither his reputation had long before reached. A treatise of his, on the *fistula in ano*, was thought worthy, notwithstanding the great mixture of empiricism and superstition which appears in his practice, of being translated and published by John Read, in 1588.

Dr. Friend remarks, that it appears from Ardern to have been the custom of the times for security to be required by surgeons from their patients for payment when the cure was effected. The same thing was practised in France at the beginning of the last century; for we are told, in the *elogie* of Monsieur Mareschal, in the ‘Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Surgery,’ at Paris, that when he was first appointed surgeon to Louis XIV., in 1703, he generously threw into the fire, obligatory bonds from his patients, to the value of £20,000.

His reasonings concerning the causes of dis tempers, were founded on the Galenical doctrines of the four different qualities of heat, cold, dryness, and moisture, operating on the different humours of the body.

As well as his modern brethren, he had his apothecaries under him, who furnished him with his *drugs* and *electuaries*; that is, his simples and compounds, the most noted of which last class were in the form of electuaries. Among the masters, from whom he derived the principles of his art, we find the venerable father of physic; some of the elder Greeks; several of the Arabian school; the modern Greeks, Damascenus Presbyter, and Constantine the monk; Raymond Lully (called here Llyye;) Bernard de Gordonio, author of the celebrated *Lilium Medicinæ*; and his own countrymen, Gilbert* and Gaddesden.†

From the sarcasm thrown out, concerning his ignorance of the scriptures, we may judge

* Physician to Hubert, archbishop of Canterbury, according to Bale, in the reign of king John, about the year 1210; but Leland makes him more modern. The earliest remaining writing, on the practice of physic, still extant, is his ‘Compendium of Physic.’

+ Of both Gaddesden and Gilbert, Dr. Friend has given a very interesting and well-written account. The latter flourished about the beginning of the fourteenth century;

that he did not, like many of that and an earlier age, unite the clerical with the medical character; and, from the description of his dress and of equipment, we may conclude him to have been a person of some figure and dignity. Upon the whole, with respect to the manner of conducting the business of his profession, and the rank he occupied in society, he appears to have approached nearer to the same character in modern times than might have been imagined.

and was the first Englishman employed as a physician at court.

In Freind's 'Rosa Angelica,' he has omitted to notice the following passage, which may not be unworthy of attention. "Our readers," says Aikin, in his 'Biographical Memoirs of Medicine in Great Britain,' whence we extract this account, "will, probably, be surprised to find that the method of producing fresh from salt-water, by simple distillation, should be familiarly mentioned by an author of this remote period. In a chapter of John of Gaddesden's on sweetening salt-water, he gives the following method of performing it. 1st. Repeated percolation through sands 2dly. Boiling salt-water in an open vessel, and receiving the steam on a cloth, which, when sufficiently impregnated, is to be wrung out. (This, in fact, is a kind of distillation.) 3dly. Distillation in an alembic with a gentle heat. 4thly. Setting a thin cup of wax to swim in a vessel of salt-water, when the sweet water will drain through the pores of the wax, and be received in the cup."

WILLIAM BUTE, OR BUTTS.

This gentleman was educated at Gonville Hall, Cambridge, of which he became a fellow. In 1529, he was admitted a member of the College of Physicians, in whose annals he is entered with the following highly flattering character; "*Vir gravis; eximia literarum cognitione, singulari judicio, summa experientia, et prudenti consilio doctor.*" He was physician to King Henry VIII., and is immortalized by Shakspeare in his historical play in that monarch's reign, where he is represented as making the king a witness to the ignominious treatment bestowed on Cranmer by the lords of council. Strype, in his life of that prelate, gives an account of this transaction, nearly the same with that of Shakspeare. As it is a curious *morceau* of private history, and not foreign to our subject, we shall quote it.—“The next morning, according to the king's monition, and his own expectation, the council sent for him, by eight o'clock of the morning. And, when he came to the council-chamber door, he was not permitted to enter into the council-chamber, but stood without, among serving-men and lacquies, above three-quarters of an hour; many counsellors and others going in and out. The matter seemed strange unto

" his secretary, who then attended upon him ;
" which made him slip away to Dr. Butts, to
" whom he related the manner of the thing,
" who, by and bye, came, and kept my lord
" company. And yet, 'ere he was called into
" the council, Dr. Butts went to the king, and
" told him that he had seen a strange sight.
" ' What is that ?' said the king. ' Marry,'
" said he, ' my lord of Canterbury is become a
" lacquey, or a serving-man; for, to my know-
" ledge, he hath stood among them this hour
" almost, at the council-chamber door.'—' Have
" they served my lord so ? It is well enough,'
" said the king; ' I shall talk with them by
" and bye.'”—*Life of Cranmer*, p. 125.

From this incident, it may be inferred, that our physician was a friend to the reformation ; which, in fact, is confirmed by various other circumstances. Dr. Butts was knighted by Henry VIII. by the title of Sir William Butts, of Norfolk. He died November 17th, 1545, and was buried in Fulham church. His portrait is in the picture of the delivery of the charter to the surgeon's company.

DR. HARVEY.

This eminent physician took his doctor's degree at Padua, the diploma for which, drawn up in extraordinary terms of approbation, is

dated April 25, 1605, when Harvey had just completed his twenty-fourth year; and is to the following effect:

“ In quo quidem examine adeo mirifice et excellentissime se gessit, tamque ac tantam ingenii, memoriae, et doctrinæ vim ostendit, ut expectatione quam de se apud omnes concitaverat, longissime superata, a prædictis excmis. Doctoribus unanimiter et concorditer, cunctisque suffragiis, ac eorum nemine penitus atque penitus discrepante, aut dissentiente, nec hæsitante quidem, idoneus et sufficientissimus in Artibus et Medicina fuerit Judicatus.”*

In December, 1652, the college of physicians testified their regard for their illustrious associate in a manner singularly honourable. They voted the erection of his statue in their hall, with the following inscription :

GULIELMO HARVEIO,
VIRO MONUMENTIS SUIS IMMORTALI
HOC INSUPER COLLEGIUM MEDICORUM LONDINENSE
POSUIT;
QUI ENIM SANGUINIS MOTUM
UT ET
ANIMALIBUS ORTUM DEDIT MERUIT ESSE
STATOR PERPETUUS.

This high mark of consideration and esteem soon met with a grateful return. On the 2d of

* This Diploma is printed in the College edition of Harvey's Works.

February following, Harvey, inviting the members to a splendid entertainment, presented the college with the deed of gift of an elegantly furnished convocation-room, and a museum filled with choice books and chirurgical instruments, which, at his own expense, he had built in their garden.

Harvey died on the 3d of June, 1658, having completed his 80th year.

In Dr. Mead's collection, there is a picture of Harvey with the following couplet, written by the former:

“ Harveii magnum nomen laudesque manebunt
Sanguis dum in Gyros itque reditque suos.”

VALENTINE GREATRAKES,

This singular man, famous for curing many people by the touch of his hand, was descended from a good family in the county of Waterford, where he was born in the reign of Charles the First. His education was as liberal as could be procured in those troublesome times, at Lismore school, where he continued until the term of years qualified him for entering Trinity college, Dublin. At this time the rebellion broke out; and, owing to the then distracted state of the nation, he was obliged, with his mother, (who had several other small children), to fly for refuge into England, where they were

relieved by his uncle, Mr. Edward Harris ; after whose death, young *Greatrakes* was committed to the care of Mr. John Daniel Getseus, a German, and then minister of Stoke Damerel, in the county of Devon, who, for several years, instructed him in theology, philosophy, &c.

About the year 1624, he returned to his native country, but, was so exceedingly affected by the miserable and reduced state it was in, that he retired to the Castle of Caperquin, where he spent a year in serious contemplation on the vicissitudes of state and fortune.

In the year 1649, he became lieutenant in the regiment of Roger, Lord Broghill, afterwards Earl of Orrery, then acting in Munster against the Irish papists ; but, upon the regiment being disbanded, (1656) he retired to his estate at Affane, and was soon after appointed clerk of the peace for the county of Cork, and registrar for plantations, and justice of peace.

About the year 1662, Valentine began to conceive himself possessed of an extraordinary virtue, in being able to remove the king's evil, or other diseases, by touching or stroking the parts affected with the hand. This imagination he concealed for some time ; but, at last, revealed it to his wife, who ridiculed the idea. Resolved, however, to make a trial, he began with one William Mayer, who was brought to the house

of his father for the purpose of receiving some assistance from Mrs. Greatrakes, as this lady was always ready to relieve the sick and indigent, as far as lay in her power. This boy was sorely afflicted with the king's-evil, but was, to all appearance, cured by Mr. Greatrakes laying his hands upon the parts affected. Several other persons appeared to be cured, in the same manner, of different disorders. He acquired considerable fame in his neighbourhood; but, being cited in the Bishop's Court, at Lismore, and not producing a licence for practising, he was prohibited from laying his hands on any person for the future; but he still continued to do so till January, 1665-6, when he came to England, at the request of the Earl of Orrery, in order to cure the lady of the Lord Viscount Conway, of Ragley, in Warwickshire, of a continual violent head-ache. He staid at Ragley about a month, but failed in his endeavours to relieve this lady; notwithstanding, he is said to have performed several miraculous cures here, in the presence of several eminent and skilful persons.

A declaration of his cures in Warwickshire, was published by Mr. Stubbe, (who was a witness to them) at Oxford, in quarto, in which the author maintained “ that Mr. Greatrakes was possessed of a peculiar temperament, as his body was composed of some particular ferment, the

effluvia whereof being introduced, sometimes by a light, sometimes by a violent friction, restore the temperament of the debilitated parts, regenerate the blood, and dissipate all heterogeneous ferments out of the bodies of the diseased, by the eyes, nose, mouth, hands, and feet." This publication was "A Letter," addressed to the Honourable Robert Boyle, Esq. who, in a private letter to the author, expressed his displeasure at being thus publicly addressed, on such a subject, particularly as Mr. Stubbe endeavoured to shew that Mr. Greatrake's gift was miraculous. Mr. Glanville, also, imputed his cures to a sensitive quality inherent in his constitution; and others (perhaps with greater probability) to the force of imagination in his patients; Mr. Boyle, however, having witnessed Mr. Greatrake's performances, in April, 1666, acknowledges his remarkable cures. This extraordinary man afforded much matter for the press, and various pamphlets were published *pro* and *con*, particularly one in quarto, and supposed to have been written by Mr. David Lloyd, reader of the Charter-house, under the title of "Wonders no Miracles; or, Mr. Valentine Greatrake's gift of healing examined upon occasion of a sad effect of his touching a young Lady, March 7th, 1665, at one Mr. Cressell's house, in Charter-house Yard, in a Letter to

a Reverend Divine, living near that place." This attack obliged Mr. Greatrakes to vindicate himself; and, accordingly, he published a list of his "strange cures." It is a fact, that this man's reputation rose to a prodigious height; but, latterly, declined almost as fast, for the expectations of the multitude, that resorted to him, were not always answered.

THE APOTHECARY AT FAULT.

It is not uncommon to see different individuals, some even of a distinguished rank, apply to apothecaries for the cure of their complaints; and it is, perhaps, not less common, to meet with apothecaries who make a merit, as well as a gain of this confidence, which is as dangerous as it is liable to abuse. If they are not paid for their visit, they lose nothing by that; the drugs which they are sure to furnish indemnifies them a hundred-fold for their pains and consultations. The following anecdote proves, however, that all do not think and act alike:—

One of the most celebrated apothecaries of Paris, member of several academies, M. B****, was occupied in his laboratory with some essential operations: he was called into his shop to a person who wished to speak to him. This person, after having stated, at considerable length, the commencement, the progress, and the state of

his disorder, finished by asking him, what he must do? M. B****, who, while the individual was speaking, was more troubled with what was passing in his laboratory than by the complaints of the patient, hastily replied, "You must take a physician or a surgeon!" Astonished by this quick reply, which he did not expect, the person stedfastly regarded M. B****, and asked with as much vivacity,—“ In infusion or decoction, Sir?”

WILLIAM TURNER.

This gentleman was born at Morpeth, in Northumberland, and educated at Cambridge, where he pursued the studies of philosophy and physic. A three-fold union of the several characters of physician, naturalist, and divine, was not unfrequent at this æra, and there were few in whom it existed more eminently than in the present subject.

Turner was a fellow-collegian and friend of the celebrated Bishop Ridley, with whom he imbibed the religious principles of the reformers, which then began to be received in England. Amid the zeal for the propagation of this opinion, he for some time quitted his medical pursuits, and travelled through the greatest part of the kingdom as an itinerant and unlicensed preacher. For this, at the in-

stigation of Bishop Gardiner and others, he was imprisoned, and, on his escape, or, as Wood represents it, his release, he went into voluntary exile. At Ferrara, he took the degree of doctor of physic; and, during the remainder of Henry the Eighth's reign, he resided chiefly at Cologne, and other places of Germany. He returned to England in the next reign, which was more favourable to his religious opinions, and was very graciously received by the young king, who presented him with a prebend of York, a canonry of Windsor, and the deanery of Wells. He likewise obtained a license to preach, as many other laymen did at that time, and was incorporated doctor of physic at Oxford.

Edward, Duke of Somerset, the protector, made him his physician, which brought him into considerable practice among people of rank.—On the accession of Queen Mary, he was again obliged to quit the country, and went into Germany with several other English divines; from thence he proceeded to Rome, and afterwards, for a time, settled in Basle. At the death of the Queen he returned to his native country, and was reinstated in his preferments. He died July 7, 1568, and was buried in St. Olave's church-yard, London. His widow afterwards married Dr. Richard Cox, bishop of Ely.

He left several children, one of whom was a doctor of physic, whose son was professor of geometry in Gresham college.

Among a variety of works which Turner left, on the three branches of knowledge, for which he was eminent, Strype, in his Life of Cranmer, p. 357, gives the following account of one of them, which we shall here quote as a specimen. It is entitled, "*A new Book of spiritual Physick for divers Diseases of the Nobility and Gentlemen of England;*" printed 1555; and dedicated to several of the principal nobility. It consisted of three parts. In the first, he shewed who were noble and gentlemen, and how many works and properties belong unto such, and wherein their office chiefly standeth. In the second, he shewed great diseases were in the nobility and gentry, which *letted* them from doing their office. In the third part, he specified what the diseases were; as namely, the Romish-pox and the leprosy; shewing afterwards the remedies against these diseases. For, being a very facetious man, he delivered his reproof and counsels under witty and pleasant discourse.

COMPETITION EXTRAORDINARY.

The old apothecaries of Vienna being irritated against the young, because they offered

their drugs for sale at half the common price, represented to the Emperor, in an audience which he granted them, that the young Pharmacoplists would either ruin themselves or deceive the public. "In the first case, it is their business," replied Joseph II.; "in the second, it is your's."

SENTENCE AGAINST AN APOTHECARY.

On the 12th of April, 1776, an Act of the Parliament of Provence sentenced an Apothecary to pay a fine of a thousand livres, and not to open his shop for three months, for having sold drugs to a woman, who died after having poisoned herself with them. It is to be desired, to prevent the frequent abuses which arise from the retailing noxious drugs, that the venders of them should be always punished with the greatest severity.

M. FOCHON.

Monsieur, brother of Louis XIV. had an extreme aversion to being let blood. In 1701, he had a bleeding of the nose, which he concealed from the physicians, fearing that they would order him to be bled. Being at table with the King one day at Marly, he was seized with a bleeding at the nose, so considerable that the whole company was alarmed. M. Fochon, first physician, to whom long experience had given

the right of speaking to the princes with a salutary boldness, said, after having examined him, " You are threatened with apoplexy, and you cannot be too soon bled." The King, at different times, joined himself with the physician, in order to overcome the resistance his brother opposed to being bled ; but never being able to succeed, he at length said, " You will find what your obstinacy will cost you. We shall be awoke some of these nights to be told—that you are dead."—The prediction was soon accomplished ; for, at the end of a short time, after having supped very gaily at St. Cloud, Monsieur was about to retire, when he dropped down dead, as he was asking M. De Ventadour, who was near him, for a liqueur which the Duke of Savoy had sent him.

EXTENSIVE VENESECTION.

M. Theveneau, Seigneur de Palmery, M.D. living at St. Sauge, a town of the Nivernois, attended the wife of a hussar, named Gignault, aged 24 years, whom he caused to be bled from the 6th of September, 1726, to the 3d of June, 1727 ; that is to say, in nine months three thousand nine hundred and four times ; to the 15th of July, of the same year, the bleedings amounted to four thousand five hundred and fifty-five ; this female could only be relieved in her dis-

order by bleeding. The Mercure de France, April, 1728, and December, 1729, contains the detail of her disease. All the bleedings, from the 6th of September, 1726, to the 1st of December, 1729, at length, amounted to twenty-six thousand two hundred and thirty.

TOUCHING FOR THE KING'S EVIL.

The following proclamation, issued in the reign of Charles I. April 22, 1634, will, perhaps, afford some gratification to the curious:—

By the King.—A Proclamation, appointing the time when his Majestie's subjects may approach to the Court for cure of the disease called the King's Euill;

Whereas, by the grace and blessing of Almighty God, the Kings and Queens of this Realme, by many ages past, have had the happinesse, by their sacred touch, to cure those who are afflicted with the disease called the King's Euill; and his now most excellent Majesty, in no less measure than any of his Royall Progenitors, hath had blessed successe therein; and, in his most gracious and pious disposition, is as ready and willing as any King or Queene of this Realme ever was in any thing to relieve the distresses and necessities of his good subjects; yet in his princely wisdome, foreseeing that in this (as in all things,) order is to be observed, and fit times are necessary to be appointed for performing this great worke of charity; and taking into his Royall consideration the great inconveniences which may happen, both in respect of the temper of the season, and in respect of contagion, which may happen in this neere accesse to his Majestie's sacred Person, when the season of the year is growne warm; Doth hereby pub-

lish and declare his Royal pleasure to be, and also will and command that from the time of publishing this proclamation, no person or persons whatsoever do attempt or presume to repair to his Majesty's Royal Court, to be healed of that disease, before the feast of All Souls now next coming; And to the end that all his loving subjects may the better take notice of this his Majestie's pleasure and command, his pleasure is, that this proclamation be published and affixed in some fit and open place in every market-town of this realme.

After the restoration, great multitudes flocked to receive the royal touch, inasmuch that six or seven persons were crushed to death, pressing at the chirurgeon's door for tickets.

Evelyn's Journal.

In 1682 the King touched 8577; and Browne remarks, that notwithstanding the number had been so great as to amount to a considerable portion of the whole nation, yet, upon any new declaration of healing, they were again as fast as if none had applied before, "A thing as monstrous as strange!" Notwithstanding this, it began to decline. Oliver Cromwell tried in vain to exercise the Royal prerogative; and, in 1684, Thomas Rousewell was tried for high-treason, because he spoke with contempt of King Charles's pretensions to the cure of scrophula.

Charles Bernard who had made this touching the subject of raillery all his life-time, till he

became sergeant-surgeon, when it turned out so good a perquisite, that he solved all difficulties, by saying, with a sneer, "Really one could not have thought it if one had not seen it."

Stowe, in his "Annals," accounts for the origin of touching for the king's evil, in the following manner: "A young woman was afflicted with this disorder in a very alarming manner, and to a most disgusting degree, feeling the uneasiness and pain consequent upon it in her sleep, dreamt that she should be cured by the simple operation of having the part washed with the king's hand. Application was consequently made to Edward, by her friend, who very humanely consented to perform the unpleasant request. A basin of water was brought, with which he carefully softened the tumors, till they broke, and the contents discharged; the sign of the cross wound up the charm; and the female retired, with the assurance of his protection during the remainder of the cure, which was effected within a week."

THE GOLDEN TOUCH.

The Hon. Daines Barington, in his "Observations on our Antient Statutes," page 107, relates the circumstance of an old man, a witness in a cause, who averred, that when Queen Anne was at Oxford, she touched him, whilst a child,

for the evil." Mr. Barrington, when he had finished his evidence, asked him, "Whether he was really cured?" Upon which he answered, with a significant smile, "that he believed himself never to have had a complaint that deserved to be considered as the evil, but that his parents were poor, *and had no objection to the bit of GOLD.*"

This accounts for the great resort of patients, and the supposed miraculous cures on this occasion. This new-exploded royal gift is thus described by Shakspeare :

" —————— Strangely-visited people,
All swollen and ulcerous, pitiful to the eye,
The mere despair of surgery, he cures;
Hanging a golden stamp about their neck,
Put on with holy prayers."—MACBETH.

SECRETS OF TRADE.

Dr. Moore (author of Zeluco) used to say that, "At least two-thirds of a physician's fees were for imaginary complaints." Among several instances of this nature, he mentions one of a clothier, who, after long drinking the Bath waters, took it into his head to try the Bristol hot wells. Previous, however, to his setting off, he requested his physician to favour him with a letter, stating his case to another brother of Galen. This done, the patient got

into a chaise and started. After proceeding about half-way, he felt an itch to pry into the contents of the letter, when the following words presented themselves:—"Dear sir, the bearer is a fat Wiltshire clothier; make the most of him." It is unnecessary to add, that his cure was at that moment effected, as he ordered the chaise to return, and immediately proceeded home.

EARLY RISING.

The celebrated physician, Bezerchemere, used every morning to awaken Nosopherivaun, and descant much on the benefits of early rising. As he was once going to court, agreeably to custom, before day-light, a thief robbed him of his turban. The emperor enquired the reason of his being bare-headed? and being informed, sneeringly said, "Didst thou not tell me, that the benefits of early rising were numerous; see what has happened to thyself, from being up so soon!"—"The thief (replied the physician) was up before me, and therefore enjoyed the advantage of my doctrine."

PHYSICIAN'S FEES.

In all ages, physicians have generally contrived to get large fees. Thus Eistratus, the physician, got a handsome fee, no less than sixty thousand crowns, from Seleucus, for

having discovered his son's (Antiochus) disorder, and prescribing a remedy, though to the father a very unpleasant one. Love was the young man's complaint, and love of Stratonice, his father's favourite concubine, who being handed over, like landed property, from father to son, adjusted matters, and cured the young gentleman.

We find, also, that Petrus Aponensis, or, as some call him, Pierre D'Avane, a physician of Padua, in the thirteenth century, would not go out of town on a visit to the sick under one hundred and fifty francs a-day. When sent for to Pope Honorius IV., he demanded four hundred ducats a-day.

ON JAMES SMITH,

Oculist and Artificial Eye-maker.

Britain's fam'd oculist displays his art,
In COUCHING eyes, and bettering of that part;
His skill is great, yet that's a nobler skill,
Which can the room of bad with new ones fill;
This does my friend, this he alone can do.
Let FOREIGN REALMS their genius boast no more,
For new inventions unconceived before,
Since SMITH, and all that know him, know 'tis true,
Is ENGLISH-born, and loves his country too.
Thus, as our Monarch others does excel,
In wisdom, power, and in ruling well;
So do his loyal subjects theirs outvie,
As well in arts as in sweet liberty.

DR. GARTH.

When the author of "The Dispensary," was on his death-bed, a nobleman, who had long confided in his skill, with characteristic selfishness sent to ask after his health; and, at the same time, to inquire, should he not recover, what physician he would recommend him to employ in his stead? "Send for the nearest," said the expiring sage.

VACCINATION.

The Empress Dowager Mary of Russia, and several foreign potentates, sent gratulatory addresses to Dr. Jenner on his discovery of vaccination, which has rapidly gained ground in every quarter of the globe. A few instances of this kind are worthy of being recorded.

When Dr. Wickham was made prisoner in France, Dr. Jenner was applied to as the fittest person for addressing to Bonaparte a petition soliciting that physician's liberation. This was at the time of Napoleon's greatest animosity to this country. It happened thus: the emperor was in his carriage, and the horses were being changed. The petition was then presented to him. He exclaimed, "Away! away!" The Empress Josephine, who accompanied him, said, "But, emperor, do you see whom this comes from? Jenner!" He changed

his tone of voice that instant, and said, "What that man asks is not to be refused;" and the petition was immediately granted. The emperor also liberated many others, even whole families, from time to time, at the request of Dr. Jenner. Indeed, he never refused any request made by Dr. Jenner, who, of course, observed proper delicacy in not applying too often.

THE PORTUGUESE MEDICAL TEST.

In Portugal, they have an odd mode of estimating medical merit. A servant belonging to the royal family was stabbed in the abdomen, so that his entrails came out. Mr. T., an English surgeon, cured the wound, and the reward he received was to have his picture hung up in the Lapa Church, standing by the patient's bed, with the Virgin Mary above, who had enabled him to perform the cure.

SINGULAR CASE OF POISONING.

The following ridiculous and not less extraordinary instance of poisoning was related to M. Dutens by an English nobleman, who was an eye-witness of the scene.—"Lord Oxford kept a mistress, who was extremely capricious. One night, when they were sleeping together, after having quarrelled, he was awakened by

the cries of his mistress; who beat her face, tore her hair, and exhibited every mark of the greatest despair. He questioned her, and pressed her to tell him the cause of her distress. At last he learnt from her, that, in order to avenge herself for the quarrel which they had had together the day before, she had poisoned him at supper, and had also poisoned herself. Alarmed at this declaration, he called up his servants, and sent for several physicians. They came; antidotes were speedily and properly administered; and after they had both vomited copiously for some hours, every body was surprised at the violent bursts of laughter of the woman; who, falling into an elbow-chair, was more than a quarter of an hour before she was able to explain the cause of such ill-timed gaiety. She at last declared, that neither Lord Oxford nor herself had been poisoned; but that she had only wished to be revenged upon him, by the alarm which she had given him, and in which she had so well succeeded. Lord Oxford thought the jest rather too serious; and as it was possible that she had thought of giving that turn to the transaction, only after the effect of the emetics, he resolved *never to sup with her again!*"

THE GOURMAND'S COMPLAINT.

A glutton complained to a physician, that he was much afflicted with colicky spasms: "What hast thou eaten to-day," said Galen, "and how dost thou generally live?" The glutton informed him that he had been at a feast, and rather exceeded his usual fare, which was so and so daily. "Well," said the Doctor, "if happily thou dost not die to-night, I would advise thee to hang thyself to-morrow, for death alone can rid thee of thy complaints."

HINT TO WIG-WEARERS.

Those who wear wigs, and have malicious barbers, should read the following.—"In the year 1761, Monsieur Stambke, Counsellor of State to the hereditary Prince of Russia and Duke of Holstein, died in an advanced age. The late Duke of Holstein owed his life to this gentleman; for, being at Petersburgh, and having ordered a new state-wig to be made, when the peruke-maker brought it home, he seemed to insist with more than ordinary earnestness that the duke should be shaved, that the wig might fit the better. M. Stambke being accidentally there, and suspecting, from the solicitude of the peruke-maker, that some foul

play was intended, advised the duke to compel the peruke-maker to have his own head shaved; which being done, and the wig put upon it, *he exp'led within twelve minutes!*

IRRESISTIBLE FEES.

Doctor Radcliffe attending one of his intimates in a dangerous sickness, with an universal strain of generosity for him, declared he would not touch a fee. One insisted, the other positively refused. But when the cure was performed, and the doctor taking his leave, quoth the patient, "Sir, in this purse I have put every day's fee; nor must your goodness get the better of my gratitude."—The doctor eyed the purse, counted the number of days in a minute, and then holding out his hand, replied, "Well, I can hold out no longer; singly, I could have refused them for a twelvemonth; but, altogether, they are irresistible."

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

Until the year 1809, surgeons were united by virtue of the old charter granted by Henry VIII. by which they stood incorporated with the Barbers: but at the time alluded to, they obtained a new one, which constituted them a separate body; since which, various legislative and other enactments and regulations

inter se, have been adopted and put in force to promote their utility and indivisible respectability. Notwithstanding all these wise measures, we have still to *boast* of hordes of practitioners, whose propensity for the *old school* seems undiminished, as well as determined never to be annihilated, by all the projectiles of the new one.

The Royal College of Surgeons is a dignified edifice of the Ionic order, with an elegant portico, on the frieze of which are inscribed the words

“ COLLEGIUM REGALE CHIRURGORUM.”

On the summit are placed arms of the college, supported by Machaon and Podalirius, sons of Æsculapius.

The interior of the Royal College is grand, spacious, and commodious; the museum is an extensive building, of an oblong form, with galleries. Amongst its valuable materials is the admirable and extensive collection of the great John Hunter, purchased by order of government. “In this collection,” to use the words of Sir Everard Home, “we find an attempt to expose to view the gradations of nature, from the most simple state in which life is found to exist, up to the most perfect and most complex of the animal creation—man himself.” It contains preparations of the hu-

man body in a healthy, a natural, and a morbid state; with a variety of the preternatural sportiveness of Mother Nature, in her varied shape and forms. It contains also a rare and extensive collection of objects of Natural History, which, through the medium of comparative anatomy, greatly contributes to physiological and pathological illustration. There is also a considerable arrangement of mineral and vegetable productions; amounting altogether to upwards of 20,000 specimens and preparations.

The museum likewise contains many valuable contributions made by Sir Joseph Banks: 500 specimens of natural and diseased structure, presented by Sir William Blizard; with considerable augmentations to the library by Sir Everard Home and others.

Among the many curiosities that are to be met with here, may be enumerated the wife of the celebrated Van Butchel, laid out in a long square mahogany box; the spaces of which are filled with a certain preservative composition; but over the face is a square of glass which can be removed at pleasure. The features are entirely preserved; and it is justly considered a curious specimen of what art can accomplish.

Twenty-four lectures are, at least, delivered

annually at this college, called "The Museum Lectures," in pursuance of the agreement made with government when the Hunterian collection was presented to it. There are also anatomical lectures, called "Arris' and Gale's Lectures," according to the intention of Alderman Arris and Mr. Gale, who bequeathed funds for that purpose: independent of these the Hunterian Oration, recently instituted, is delivered every 14th of February.*

The library is only accessible to the members of the college; and it is difficult to gain permission to view the Museum without being introduced by one of this body.

The other buildings, connected as appendages to this learned institution, possess equal merit, by uniting a successful combination of utility with architectural excellence.

EMPIRICAL IMPUDENCE.

One of the best quacks ever read of was a Monsieur Villars, of Paris, who lived about 1728. When a funeral passed, he would shrug up his shoulders in pity, saying, "If the deceased had taken his medicine, he would not be where he is." At length his nostrum got into fame, and as he sold it at a crown the

* The birth-day of the celebrated John Hunter.

bottle, he got very wealthy. His prescription with his medicine (which was nothing more than the water of the Seine and a little nitre), or rather his observation, was generally this : “ It is your own fault if you be not perfectly cured; you have been intemperate and incontinent: renounce these vices, and with the aid of my medicine, you will live to a good old age.” The Abbé Pons extolled this quack, and gave him the preference to Mareschal de Villars : “ the latter, (said he) kills men; the former prolongs their existence.”

THE LAST FEE.

The late Dr. B——, of Bristol, who died very rich, coming into the bed-room of a patient a very few minutes after he had expired, perceived something glittering through the clenched fingers of one hand : he gently opened them, took out the guinea, and put it into his pocket, observing, “ This was certainly intended for me !”

GIG PATIENTS.

A celebrated surgeon was called upon by a gentleman to attend a friend in the country. The gentleman offered to carry him to the place.—“ By what conveyance ?”—“ I will take you down in my gig.”—“ I am much

obliged to you," said the wary disciple of Esculapius, " but I decline your offer, as I have at this time half a dozen gig patients under my care."

FASTING.

M. Denis Dodart, (physician to Louis XIV.,) relates the following account of his living in Lent:—"On the first day of Lent, 1677, (age 43) he weighed 116lb. 1oz. During the whole of Lent he continued to live as was the practice of the church in the 12th century ; *i. e.* he neither ate nor drank till six or seven o'clock, P. M. His diet, the chief part of the time, was vegetable ; towards the end, bread and water only. On Easter Eve he weighed 107lb. 12oz. having lost, in forty-six days, 8lb. 5oz. equal to one-fourteenth of his first weight. On resuming his ordinary course of life, in four days he recovered 4lb.; whence the writer assumes eight or nine days as time sufficient to repair the loss of forty-six of abstinence.—He had made some experiments also on bleeding, the result of which was, that in a robust and healthy person, 16 oz. would be recovered in less than five days."

M. Dodart must have been of a diminutive size, his weight not being more than two-thirds of a tolerably stout man. The comparative

loss of weight is considerable, but by no means equal to the amount of what some of our Newmarket jockeys, of about the same bulk, produce upon themselves by the effect of strong exercise and a load of additional cloathing, rather than by great abstinence.

ECCENTRIC ARMY-SURGEON.

Maurice Quill was a native of Tralee, the capital of "the kingdom of Kerry," as it is called in Ireland. He was appointed assistant-surgeon to the 31st regiment of foot, about the year 1809, and followed that regiment to the Peninsula; subsequent to his landing, he contrived to remain for many months at Baylem, in Portugal; but after much manœuvring, to avoid "joining" at head-quarters, Maurice was "ordered up" peremptorily by the Duke of Wellington. His reputation for wit, originality, and consequently for "idling," all who came within the sphere of his influence was such, that the morning after he had "joined," his colonel, (the gallant Duckworth) waited upon Lord Hill (of whose division of the army the 31st formed a part), and with unaffected sorrow and gravity reported the arrival of Maurice, and the consequent termination of discipline in the regiment. The general uttered the most dreadful denunciations against "Mr. May-

rice," as he called him, should the fears of the colonel be realised—but he became ultimately extremely partial to the humourous surgeon.

Quill was one of the finest specimens of Irish character that has appeared in our day. He possessed, in an extraordinary degree, all the wit, humour, and love of *bardinage* that distinguish his countrymen. To the originality of his conceptions, the oddity of his remarks, and the strangeness of his phraseology, the richness of his brogue gave peculiar poignancy. He loved ease, good living, and society; of the latter he was always certain, if, indeed, he happened not to be in a desert; for so attractive was he, that his quarters were the rendezvous of all the officers who could, by possibility, repair to them, to "beguile the tedium of the winter's night;" unless such as were, unfortunately, from their rank, denied that pleasure, in observance of military etiquette. The rush-light in his tent, or lodging, was a beacon to the exhausted and dispirited soldier. It has been said that he loved *bardinage*, and was witty; but his wit was never barbed by the slightest touch of ill-nature or offensive personality. He was brave, but affected cowardice; and gave such whimsical expression to his assumed fears, as provoked laughter in the hot-

test engagement. Of this, his conduct at the dreadful and bloody battle of Albuera will be a sufficient example.

Quill had unnecessarily followed the regiment "into fire," as it is termed; creeping on his hands and knees, with boyish tricks, he traversed the rear of the line, pulling the officers by their coats, and tendering his brandy bottle, saying, "Here, take a *slug** before you get a *bullet*. Have a *deoch and hurras* (a drink at the door) *before you depart*." A mass of the enemy's cavalry, including a regiment of Polish lancers, prepared to charge the 31st., Colonel Duckworth ordered the regiment to form in square, in the centre of which he discovered Maurice, shaking from head to foot with well-dissembled terror. "This is no place for you, Mr. Maurice," said the lamented Duckworth, a few moments before his fall.— "By J——, I was just thinking so, colonel," replied the *droll*; "I wish to the Holy Father that the greatest rascal in Ireland was kicking me this moment up Dame-street, and that even though every friend I have in the world was looking at him! Finding it impossible to break the square, the enemy's cavalry retired with great loss, when, ordering the regiment

* Slug, a dram.

to deploy, "Fall in," said the colonel; "Fall out," said Maurice, and scampered off; but hearing that a captain of the regiment was severely wounded, he returned into the fire, and dressed him. He had just finished this operation, when a twelve-pound shot struck the ground near Maurice and his patient, and covered them with earth. "By J——, there is more where that came from," said Quill, and again took to his heels.

Of the nature of his replies to the many questions with which he was assailed by his colonel, who was induced to ask them, by the suggestions of those better acquainted with his manner—and to give a striking specimen of Quill's character, I shall add one more instance:—"I am desirous to know, Mr. Maurice," said the colonel, "to what good fortune can we ascribe your appointment to the thirty-first?"—"Why colonel," (with affected embarrassment) "I left the —— because some of the spoons belonging to the mess were found in my kit, and you know that would not do in one of the crack regiments, colonel. I joined the *thirty-first* because I had a brother in the *thirty-second*, and I wanted to be *near* him."

Of his professional abilities, I know nothing; that they were not held in high estimation would appear from the fact of his not having been

promoted during the Peninsular war. That he despaired of advancement after the war had terminated, was obvious, from his reply to a friend who asked him what rank he held—“ Why, I have been thirteen years an assistant-surgeon, and, with the blessing of God—that is, if I live and *behave* myself, I shall be so for thirteen years more.” I am pleased to observe, that this prophecy was not verified, and that he had been promoted to the rank of full surgeon before his death. Mr. Quill died young—he must have been under forty years of age. Of poor Maurice, it might be truly said, that he possessed—

Spirits o’erflowing—wit that did ne’er offend—
He gained no enemy, and he lost no friend.

The tear of many a veteran will fall when he shall learn that Maurice Quill is no more!—Mr. Quill died in the New Barracks, Cork, on the 15th of August, 1823.

GUY PATIN AND M. MENAGE.

Guy Patin, a celebrated French physician, happened to dine where M. Menage was of the party; when the former, who was remarkable for the gaiety of his manners, took an opportunity, as he ogled a bumper of Burgundy in his hand, of addressing himself to M. M. with—“ *Domine Menage! oportet vivere sic.*”—

"I don't think you'll find that among the aphorisms of Hippocrates, doctor!" said M. M.—"However, you are right enough in holding forth this doctrine; for, if you can but prevail upon all the world to live up to it, there can't be a doubt that you and your brethren will have a deal more business than you now have."—
"Don't you be too sure of that," replied the former; "we don't expose our exotic doctrines to the world; nor are you aware of the important recipe contained in my monosyllable *sic*. Separate its letters a little, and let them stand as the indicative initials of *s-obriè*—*i-u-cundè*—*c-astè*, and you will find in them some sound medical as well as moral truths: Sobriety, Cheerfulness, and Chastity, sir, are three of the main pillars of that temple, of which I have the honour to be of the priesthood."

DR. GLYNN'S PRACTICE.

The late Dr. Glynn, of Cambridge, was a great favourite of George III., who delighted in the original humour and strong sense of his conversation; and used sometimes to walk for hours with him on the terrace at Windsor.

The doctor was an elegant scholar, but a man of many peculiarities. Among others, he

never employed in practice either opium or mercury, as he was of opinion, that even syphilis might be cured without the aid of this last remedy. Being taken ill, when at some distance from home, he sent for a neighbouring physician; to whom he said, “I am going to be very ill, and commit myself to your care; but on no account give me any of that vile drug, opium, or any preparation of it.” When he recovered, he said, “He hoped his friend had complied with his request; but begged he would inform him, whether he had given him any opium or not.”—“If I had not,” said the other, “you would not have been here to ask the question.”

CHOICE OF A PHYSICIAN.

It is morally impossible for any great number of physicians, or for any large proportion of those who may choose to try their fortunes in a great town, ever to rise to eminence, or to acquire extensive and lucrative practice. In proportion, at least, to the great eminence and wealth that a few of our profession have acquired in any city, or, more probably, in a much greater proportion, will the number of adventurers in the medical lottery of that place be increased; each trusting to his own merit and his good fortune. But the people

among whom, and by whom, they must live, are not in the least disposed to trust any of them; and, unless in some very peculiar circumstances, will not trust any of them without the recommendation of at least a long acquaintance, or what they may think satisfactory experience of their talents and professional knowledge. Each for his own sake, or for that of any of his family, when sick, will be eager to obtain the assistance of some physician whose professional character is already established. This is the true origin and rational foundation of the common remark, that “a physician cannot earn bread, till he has not teeth to eat it.” This point was well explained some hundred years ago, when men wore long beards, and the Pope was infallible. His holiness had the misfortune to lose his physician, in whom he had great confidence. Many physicians, of course, were eager to offer their services to the pope, who could not for some time find one that suited him, or who had even the sense to answer properly a very simple question, which the Pope put to them successively: “How many have you killed?” One after another declared, that they had never killed any man. At last a shrewd-looking old fellow, with a huge bushy beard, made his appearance, and offered his services. The

pope put the usual question to him. “*Tot quot,*” said the applicant, grasping his beard with both hands. The pope immediately chose him for his physician.

GOUT.

METHODE PROPHYLACTIQUE.

Sur peine de la Goutte un Medecin m'ordonne
De quitter l'usage du Vin :
Mais loins de renoncer a ce breuvage divin
J'acheve de vider ma tonne.

Laquais ! vîte a grands flots remplis moi ce chrystral ;
Si le Vin engendre la Goutte,
Boire jusqu'a la lie est le secret sans doute
De tarir de source le mal.

TRANSLATION.

PROPHYLACTIC PRACTICE.

“ Wine brings the Gout,” the Doctors cry;
And solemnly they write,—“ Abstain,”
But hence, with sounder reason, I
Fill up my glass, and drink again.—

“ Is it not wisdom,” I wou’d ask,
“ If Wine doth surely cause the Gout,
“ In bumpers thus to drain my cask,
“ And drink the dang’rous Liquor out ?”

FRACTURE OF THE THIGH.

The following piece of grave advice, notwithstanding the great name of the counsellor, will not, we think, have many followers.—In a

fracture of the thigh, "the extensors ought to be particularly great, the muscles being so strong, that, notwithstanding the effect of the bandages, their contraction is apt to shorten the limb. This is a deformity so deplorable, that when there is reason to apprehend it, I would advise the patient to suffer the other thigh to be broken also, in order to have them both of one length."

PHENOMENA OF MUSCULAR CONTRACTION.

When a muscle contracts, its fibres, more or less suddenly shorten and become hard; and, without any preparatory oscillation or hesitation, they suddenly acquire such a degree of elasticity, that they are enabled to vibrate or produce sounds. The colour of the muscle does not seem to change at the time it contracts; but it has a certain tendency to be displaced, which is resisted by the aponeuroses. It has been disputed whether a muscle is more voluminous in its relaxed or contracted state; and, although we consider this circumstance by no means satisfactorily established, it is happily of no very great importance. All the sensible phenomena of muscular contraction take place in muscles; but it is no less certain, that they cannot be developed unless the brain and nerves contribute their assistance.

If the brain of a man or a brute be compressed, the power of muscular contraction is lost—and, if the nerves running to a muscle are cut, it becomes instantly paralysed. With the changes that may occur in the muscular structure, in a state of contraction, we are completely unacquainted; and, in this respect, it resembles the vital actions, of which no explanation can be given; notwithstanding the frequent hypothetical attempts that have been made to illustrate them, but without success.

In muscular contraction we observe four points; viz. intensity—duration—rapidity, and extent.

The intensity of muscular contraction, or, in other words, the degree of force with which the fibres shorten, is regulated by the action of the brain—it is in general subject to the will, within limits which vary in each individual.

A particular organization of the muscles favours the intensity of the contractions; such as a voluminous fibre, of a deep red, with transverse striæ. With the same act of solution, these would produce effects much stronger than muscles with delicate, smooth, and colourless fibres. If, however, to such fibres be added a very strong cerebral power, or a great degree of strength of volition, the contraction

will acquire much more remarkable degree of intensity ; so that the cerebral influence on the one hand, and the disposition of the muscular structure on the other, constitute the two elements of the intensity of muscular contraction.

A very energetic cerebral action is seldom combined with a disposition of muscular fibres favourable to the intensity of contraction. The proportion of these two elements is generally inverse. When they are combined, astonishing effects are produced. This combination probably existed in the *athletæ* of antiquity ; and, at present, is observable in rope-dancers.

By the influence of the brain solely, muscular power may be carried to an extraordinary degree : we know the strength of an enraged man—of maniacs, of persons in convulsions, &c.

The duration of contraction is subject to the will ; it must not, however, be prolonged beyond a certain period, which varies in different individuals ; for we then experience a sense of fatigue, at first but slightly marked, but afterwards increasing till the muscle refuses to contract any longer. The period at which this unpleasant feeling commences, is proportioned to the intensity of the contraction, and the weakness of the individual. To obviate this inconvenience, the different movements

are so ordered that the muscles may act in succession, the contraction of each being but of short duration; hence the reason we cannot stand long in one particular posture; and why an attitude requiring the strong and continued contraction of small numbers of muscles cannot be preserved more than a few moments. The sense of fatigue which ensues upon muscular contraction, is dissipated by inaction; and after some time the muscles again resume their power of contraction.

Within a certain extent the quickness of contraction is subjected to central influence: this is proved by the manner of our common motions; but beyond this degree, the quickness of contraction evidently depends upon habit. To illustrate this, let any one examine the difference with respect to rapidity of motion, between a man who touches a piano for the first time, and who has been for some years in the habit of playing upon the same instrument. Some very remarkable individual differences are seen, with respect to quickness of contraction, both in our common movements, and those which are acquired only by practice.

Volition directs the extent of contraction, which, however, must necessarily vary with the length of fibres; for long fibres have a greater extent of contraction than short ones.

From what has been said, it would appear, in general, that the WILL has great influence over muscular contraction, at the same time, it is indispensable to it; as, under many circumstances, motions occur, not only without the concurrence of the WILL, but in direct opposition to it; many remarkable instances of this kind take place from habit, passions, and diseases.

Muscular contraction, however, such as we have here described, must not be confounded with the modifications which it experiences in disease, as in convulsions, spasms, tetanus, wounds of the brain, &c.; neither must it be confounded with the *post mortem* appearance of muscles: phenomena, no doubt, which it must be amusing to study, but by no means deserving the importance which Haller and his disciples attached to them; and, above all, they must not be blended, under the term irritability, with the other modes of contraction, (particularly that of the muscles,) which occur in the animal economy.

The muscles cannot be distinguished from the gelatinous matter which forms and constitutes the embryo, before the commencement of the second month; nor do they present, at this period, the characters which they possess in the adult. They are of a pale grey, slightly

tinged with red, and receive but a small portion of blood compared with the quantity they afterwards contain. They grow and are developed during the progressive growth of the body; but this evolution is not strongly marked, so that at birth they are slender and but little expanded: those, however, of digestion or respiration must be excepted, which require, and in fact have a much more striking increase.

During infancy and youth, the nourishment of the muscles increases, but they grow principally in length; hence in infancy and adolescence, the shape is rounded, slender, and agreeable, and nearly the same in the female state. In the adult, the shape changes again: the muscles increase in thickness, are strongly marked under the skin, and greatly augmented in bulk; the spaces between them being no longer filled up with fat; prominences and depressions are formed, which give the body an appearance altogether different from that of youth. The muscular substance becomes firm, its red colour deepens, its chemical nature is modified; for daily experience proves that soup made with the flesh of young animals has a taste, colour and, consistence very different from that made from the flesh of those that are full grown, which appears to contain more

fibrine, or omazome, colouring matter of the blood; and consequently more iron.

The nutritive powers of the muscles sensibly decrease in old age. These organs diminish in volume, become pale, florid, and trembling; their contractility is weakened; the fibres become coriacious and difficult to be lacerated

Muscular contraction undergoes nearly the same changes as the nourishment of the muscles. Weak and scarcely discernible is the foetus, its activity increases at birth, and rapidly in infancy and youth; acquires its highest degree of perfection in the adult; and, at length, is entirely lost in the decrepit old man.
—*Majendie.*

DR. BAILLIE

Was born Oct. 27th, 1761, in the manse of Tholy, near Hamilton, in Scotland. His father was the Rev. James Baillie, D. D. (a supposed descendant of the family of Baillie of Jerviswood,) some time minister of the kirk of Shotts, (one of the most barren and wild parts of the low country of Scotland,) and afterward professor of divinity in the university of Glasgow.

His mother was Dorothea, daughter of Mr. John Hunter, of Kilbride, in the county of Lanark, (a descendant of the family of Hunter,

of Hunterstown,) and sister of the two celebrated anatomists Dr. WILLIAM and Mr. JOHN HUNTER.

BAILLIE'S LECTURES.

Previous to Dr. Hunter's death, which took place in March, 1783, his nephew had become the chief teacher of practical anatomy; and after that event, he became his successor in the lectures, having for an associate Mr. Cruickshank, who, during Dr. Hunter's life, had given a part of the lectures. Dr. Baillie began to lecture in 1784-5, and soon acquired the highest reputation as an anatomist and a teacher of anatomy; to which character his arduous labours in the formation of his collection of anatomical preparations, consisting of nearly eleven hundred articles, greatly contributed. He possessed the valuable talent of making an abstruse and difficult subject plain: his prelections were remarkable for that lucid order and clearness of expression which proceed from a perfect conception of the subject; and he never permitted any variety of display to divert him from his great object, of conveying information in the simplest and most intelligible way, and so as to be most useful to the pupils. He had no desire to get rid of national peculiarities of language; or, if he had, he

did not perfectly succeed. Not only did the language of his own land linger on his tongue, but its recollections clung to his heart; and to the last, amidst the splendour of his professional life, and the seductions of a court, he took a hearty and an honourable interest in the happiness and the eminence of his native country. But there was a shrewdness and strength of mind which distinguished him, and much more than compensated for the want of the polish and purity of English pronunciation. When the increase of his practice as a physician made it necessary for him to decline lecturing, which it did in 1799, the students in Windmill-street showed their sense of his merits, and of their obligations to him, by presenting him with a very handsome and valuable piece of plate, bearing a Latin inscription expressive of their gratitude.

MEDICO-LEGAL OPINION.

A person observed to an eminent Lawyer, that Buchan's Domestic Medicine was a good book, because it qualifies every man to be his own physician. "How far that may be the case," observed the man of Law, "I will not presume to determine; but I may be allowed to speak decidedly as to my own profession: and so I hesitate not to pronounce, that every man who is his own lawyer, has a fool for a client."

PHILLIPS'S PHYSIOLOGICAL THEORIES.

Heat, according to Sir R. Phillips, is atoms in motion, and the perception and phenomena of heat are experienced whenever atoms in motion part with their motion to other atoms, either in concentration or in a rapid succession.

Thus a tile struck by a hammer visibly disperses the momentum of the hammer in the flying pieces; but a piece of iron so struck does not break, but in dispersing invisible atoms, exhibits heat.

Water put on the iron in this state is dispersed in gas, carries off the motion, and cools the iron, and the momentum of the hammer is transferred to the water.

The atoms of water evolve into a space already full of atoms, and by them are deflected into orbits; hence all visible gas, and gas generally, is formed into rounded masses, as clouds of steam, smoke, &c., consisting of atoms in circular motion.

If oxyde of manganese is put on the hot iron it also cools it, and is converted into oxygen gas, or into atoms driven by others into circular orbits.

When these masses or clouds of atoms, or gas, are refixed or condensed, they thereby part with the motion which made them gazeous, and ex-

hibit heat and momentum, or heat and force or energy in whatever receives the motion: for whatever motion is parted with by one body must, in the very terms of the proposition, be received by another.

But atmospheric air is gas, or atoms in circular motion, and, in respiration, we fix it, or certain portions of it, in the cells of the lungs; hence, then, the heat of the body and blood, and hence, also, animal strength and energy, for they breathe and fix in proportion to the energy which they exert.

The lungs are the prime movers of animals and animal heat and energy, or, in other words, animal life is derived from the gas in which the animal lives, the moving atoms of which gas are partly fixed by the mechanical and chemical process of respiration.

All heat and flame is the similar fixation of atoms.

Continued respiration or fixation of gas creates, however, accelerated heat in the system, or an extra excitement of the atoms to radiate, and hence evaporation or perspiration.

But this departure or radiation of atoms from the body diminishes the aggregate or bulk, and hence the necessity of new assimilations by food or soil carried to the roots, or animal absorbents in the portable cavity of the stomach.

Gas fixing, therefore, creates animal heat and energy.

Evaporation diminishes it.

Healthy action is the balance of the two.

But the gas fixed has more motion than substance, as appears from its invisibility, and its relative permanency, and that created and evaporated at the skin, has more substance than motion, as appears from its visibility and easy condensation; hence, in the process, matter or substance is lost.

Food, or assimilating soil, keeps up the bulk.

As respiration is constant, when evaporation is checked, accumulated excitement in the system, or accelerated atomic motion takes place, called **FEVER**.

The remedies are, less respiration or repose, and less food till the evaporation is restored.

Of course, the same excitement on different systems produces the varieties of fever.

All other phenomena of the system may be explained and illustrated on the same reasoning and principles.

This theory first appeared in 1821, in Phillips's Essays, and, as yet, has met with no opposition.

JOHN OF GADDESDEN.

The celebrated John of Gaddesden, one of the great luminaries of the dark ages, and the

first Englishman who had the honour of being employed at court as a physician, whose consummate impudence and singular drollery have procured him some readers even in the present age, notwithstanding his almost illegible black letter, and almost unintelligible crabbed barbarous Latin, was particularly attentive to that distinction between rich and poor patients. He tells us of one medicine so good, that it was only proper for the rich; and of several of his favourite medicines he directs a double dose for the rich, "*Duplum sit si pro divite.*" This prerogative of the rich, it is presumed, even the beggars at their doors will hardly envy them: and we can laugh at the ludicrous absurdity of such a proposal. But it is impossible to laugh at the proposal, or at the practice, of bestowing on the sick poor in the hospital a superfluity of that kind of assistance which the rich reject for themselves, when they are sick, and could not, without horror, think of having employed on themselves or their families. Is it in any respect less horrible when employed on the poor?

HUGH DOWNMAN, M. D.

Was the son of a gentleman of good fortune in the neighbourhood of Exeter. He was educated first at the public school of that place, from whence he was removed to Jesus College

Cambridge, where he took the degree of A. M. He was designed for the church, and actually took orders, and performed the duties of a clergyman for a few years in his father's neighbourhood ; but a disorder to which he was subject (afterwards proved to be a liver complaint) rendering any exertion of his voice painful and dangerous, he went to Edinburgh and graduated as a physician. He was the author of several poems; viz. "The Land of the Muses,"—"Infancy,"—"The Death Song of Logbrog,"—"Poems sacred to Love and Beauty," &c. He also wrote three tragedies ; 1. "Lucius Junius Brutus," historical play, 8vo, 1779. 2. "Editha," 8vo, 1784, printed at Exeter, reprinted 1792. 3. "Belisarius," 8vo. 1786 and 1792. He died at his native place, Sept. 23, 1809.

JAMES SILAS DODD, SURGEON.

In 1752 this gentleman published "An Essay towards the Natural History of the Herring." He took an active part in the contest about Elizabeth Canning, and published a pamphlet in her defence. He afterwards composed "a lecture on hearts," which he publicly read at Exeter-change, with some degree of success. He was also president of one of the debating societies, and attended several of them. One of his dramatic pieces has been

acted once, and published, entitled "Gallic Gratitude ; or the Frenchman in India," a comedy, 8vo. 1779. This was republished, as acted in Dublin, under the title of the "Funeral File," comic opera, 12mo. 1799. He died in Dublin, March, 1805, at the great age, it is said, of 104.

DR. GLYNN'S PRESUMPTION.

Being consulted by a person now a high dignitary of the church, but then a hard student at the University, the Doctor, with his usual sagacity, perceiving that his dejection of spirits arose in a great measure from his having devoted too little attention to the fair sex, and too much to his books, wrote him the following prescription :

Rx. Papillarum virginum manipulos duos,
preme paulisper;
Dein pone rem in re et fiat mistura, s. a.

GALL-BLADDER.

Amongst the inhabitants of the kingdom of Laos, in the Peninsula on the other side of the Ganges, there are some people who are persuaded that by rubbing the head of their elephant with human gall, they inspire this animal with an extraordinary power and courage, which renders them invincible. Above all, the great

entertain this extravagant opinion: they give a sum of money to some desperadoes, who kill in the forests the first person they meet with, open him, take out his gall-bladder, and carry it to their employer, with the head of the person they have killed, as a proof that the vesicle came from a man.

DOCTOR DARWIN.

During Darwin's early residence at Litchfield, Mr. Sneyd, then of Bishton, and a few more gentlemen of Staffordshire, prevailed upon the Doctor to join them in an expedition, by water, from Burton to Nottingham, and on to Newark. They had cold provision on board, and plenty of wine. It was Midsummer; the day hot and sultry. The noon-tide meal had been made, and the glass gone gaily round. It was one of those few instances, in which the medical votary of the Naiads transgressed his general and strict sobriety. If not absolutely intoxicated, his spirits were in a high state of exhilaration. On the boat approaching Nottingham, within the distance of a few fields, he surprised his companions by stepping, without any previous notice, from the boat into the middle of the river, and swimming to shore. They saw him get upon the bank, and walk coolly over the meadows towards the

town. They called to him in vain; but he did not once turn his head.

Anxious lest he should take a dangerous cold by remaining in his wet clothes, and uncertain whether he intended to desert the party, they rowed instantly to the town, at which they had not designed to have touched, and went in search of their river god.

In passing through the market-place, they saw him standing upon a tub, encircled by a crowd of people, and resisting the entreaties of an apothecary of the place, one of his old acquaintance, who was importuning him to go to his house, and accept of other clothes till his own could be dried. The party, on passing through the crowd, were surprised to hear him speaking without any degree of his usual stammering.

"Have I not told you, my friend, that I had drank a considerable quantity of wine before I committed myself to the river. You know my general sobriety: and, as a professional man, you *ought* to know, that the *usual* existence of *internal* stimulants would, in its effects upon the system, counteract the *external* cold and moisture."

Then perceiving his companions near him, he nodded, smiled, and waved his hand, as en-

joining them silence; thus, without hesitation, addressing the populace:—

“ Ye men of Nottingham, listen to me ; you are ingenious and industrious mechanics. By your industry, life’s comforts are procured for yourselves and families. If you lose your health, the power of being industrious will forsake you. *That* you know ; but you may *not* know, that to breathe fresh and changed air constantly, is not less necessary to preserve health, than sobriety itself. Air becomes unwholesome in a few hours if the windows be shut. Open those of your sleeping rooms whenever you quit them to go to your workshops. Keep the windows of your workshops open, whenever the weather is not insupportably cold. I have no *interest* in giving you this advice. Remember what I, your countryman, and a physician, tell you. If you would not bring infection and disease upon yourselves, and to your wives and little ones, change the air you breathe ; change it many times in a day by opening your windows.”

So saying, he stept down from the tub, and returning with his party to their boat, they pursued their voyage.

THOMAS WILLIS, M. D.

The works of this eminent anatomist, philosopher, and physician, are highly treasurable :

he was one of the most elegant latin writers of his age; and his practice was equal to his fame. He had a deep insight into every branch of science, especially anatomy. His "Cerebri Anatome," and his work, "De Anima Brutorum," gained him great reputation.

He was a liberal benefactor to the poor, it being his custom to dedicate all his Sunday fees to their relief; it was also his custom to attend church service early in the morning, on which account he procured prayers to be read at unusual hours during his life; and, at his death, settled 20*l.* per annum to continue them. His table was the resort of great and learned men. He was one of the first members of the Royal Society, and he declined the honor of knighthood.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS, M. D.

Dr. Saunders came to London and lectured on his own account, and on a similar plan to Cullen, in Covent Garden, where his class was numerously attended, and produced 1000*l.* per annum.

Shortly after, he married the daughter of a respectable merchant in the city, by whose interest, and his own fair fame, he became physician to Guy's Hospital, where he founded the school of medicine, which has continued

with undiminished reputation to this day. He was powerfully aided in his election by Lord Mansfield, whose good opinion and friendship he had been fortunate enough to obtain, on a former unsuccessful canvas. Calling on his lordship one morning, he had the mortification to find his interest previously engaged ; but, with his usual urbanity and grace, he entered into conversation with the young physician, on the then disputed subject, the “ colour of the skin.” This afforded the doctor a fair opportunity of displaying that professional acumen for which he shone conspicuous, so as to secure the esteem and future support of that illustrious character.

THE VILLAGE APOTHECARY AND CLERGYMAN.

But soon a loud and hasty summons calls,
Shakes the thin roof, and echoes round the walls ;
Anon a figure enters, quaintly neat,
All pride and business, bustle and conceit.
With looks unalter'd by these scenes of woe,
With speed that entering, speaks his haste to go ;
He bids the gazing throng around him fly,
And carries Fate and Physic in his eye ;
A potent quack, long versed in human ills,
Who first insults the victim whom he kills ;
Whose murd'rous hand a drowsy bench protect,
And whose most tender mercy is neglect,

Paid by the Parish for attendance here,
He wears contempt upon his sapient sneer.
In haste he seeks the bed where misery lies,
Impatience mark'd in his averted eyes:
And, some habitual queries hurried o'er,
Without reply he rushes to the door:
His drooping patient, long inur'd to pain,
And long unheeded, knows remonstrance vain;
He ceases now the feeble help to crave
Of man, and mutely hastens to the grave.

But ere his death some pious doubts arise,
Some simple fears which “ bold bad men” despise;
Fain would he ask the Parish priest to prove
His title certain to the joys above;
For this he sends the murmuring nurse, who calls
The holy stranger to these dismal walls;
And doth not he, the pious man, appear,
He, “ passing rich with forty pounds a year?”
Ah! no; a shepherd of a different stock,
And far unlike him, feeds this little flock;
A jovial youth, who thinks his Sunday’s task
As much as God or man may fairly ask;
The rest he gives to loves and labours light,
To fields the morning, and to feasts the night;
None better skill’d, the noisy pack to guide,
To urge the chace, to cheer them, or to chide:
Sure in his shot, his game he seldom miss’d,
And seldom failed to win his game of Whist.
Then, while such honours bloom around his head,
Shall he sit sadly by the sick man’s bed,
To raise the hope he feels not, or with zeal
To combat fears that even the pious feel?

DR. JOHN AIKIN,

Known to the public as a very pleasing and accomplished writer, was born at Kibworth, in Leicestershire, and was the son of the Rev. Mr. Aikin, a dissenting minister, who kept a classical academy at that place, and was afterwards one of the professors at Warrington. He was, at a suitable age, apprenticed to a surgeon and apothecary, at Uppingham, in Rutland; and, on completing his term, was sent to Edinburgh, where he graduated as M.D. He settled in his profession at Yarmouth, and subsequently removed to Norwich. His celebrated sister, Mrs. Barbauld, and her husband, re-opened a school at Thetford, in that county, and thereby added to the weight of his local influence. Although the most amiable of men, he was neither empirical enough, nor sufficiently warm and popular in his address, to supersede others in their profitable practice. To avail himself, therefore, at once of his public reputation as a man of letters, and of the society of his sister, who then had settled at Hampstead, he removed to London in 1794. Here he sought to combine practice with literary engagements among the booksellers; but, as the public never favour any man in two capacities, his success as an author shut him

out from medical practice, and he settled professedly as a man of letters, in the year 1802, at Stoke Newington, where Mr. and Mrs. Barbauld also took up their residence. A few years since he suffered a severe attack of the palsy, which deprived him of his corporeal and mental faculties; and, to other attacks of this disease, he at length fell a victim in December, 1822, in the 76th year of his age.

His early works consisted of a "History of Medicine;" and a work "Medical Biography."

ARCHEBISHOP GRINDALL

Was wont to say, that the physicians here in England were not good at the cure of particular diseases, but had only the power to bind and loose.

WILLIAM WALWIN.

A great dealer in nostrums, among which were his *succus vitæ* and his *sanguis vitæ*; his *medulla vitæ*, *vita vitæ*, and his *vis vitæ*, in a book recommending "physic for families," informs the world, that he is not without a hope of curing diseases, "without the trouble, hazard, pain, or danger, of purges, vomits, bleedings, issues, glysters, blisters, opium, antimony, and quicksilver, so full of perplexity in sickness." He gives a long list of cures on

his own credit, the practice of procuring and printing oaths not being then in fashion.

EMPIRICAL DISQUISITION.

In 1684, John Browne, surgeon to the king, published his "Adenochoiradelogia, or king's evil swellings, together with the royal gift of healing or cure thereof, by imposition of hands, performed for above 640 years by our kings." He gives an account of the number of persons touched for the king's evil from May 1660, to Sept. 1664, by King Charles II., viz.

In 1660.....	6725
1661.....	4619
1662.....	4275
1663.....	4667
1664.....	3335

And from another account, by Mr. Thomas Dankley, it appears, that monarch, from 1667 to 1682, actually touched, on the average, 4000 people every year.

APPARATUS OF DIGESTION.

The digestive apparatus may be represented as a long tube diversely contorted upon itself, wide at certain points, narrow at others; susceptible of becoming wide and narrow, and into which are poured a great quantity of fluids, by means of particular ducts. Anatomists divide

the digestive canal into several portions, viz. the mouth, the pharynx, the œsophagus, the stomach, the small intestines, the large intestines, and the anus.

Two membranous coats form the parietes of the intestinal canal throughout its whole extent. The inner one, which is destined to be in contact with the aliment, consists of a *mucous membrane*, the appearance and structure of which vary in each of its portions, so that it is no longer the same at the pharynx as at the mouth, nor at the stomach as at the œsophagus, &c. At the lips and anus this membrane is lost in the skin.

The second coat of the intestinal canal is *muscular*, and is composed of two layers of fibres, a longitudinal and a circular one. The arrangement, thickness, and the nature of these fibres differ in proportion as they are observed at the mouth, the œsophagus, the large intestines, &c.

A great number of blood-vessels open into or commence from this canal; but its abdominal portion receives an infinitely greater number than that part which is above it. In the latter none are to be met with, with the exception of such as are necessary to its nutrition, and the inconsiderable secretion of which it is the seat; whilst the number and size of the vessels which



THOMAS WILLIS, MD.



belong to the abdominal portion, indicate that it is the agent of a very considerable secretion. The chyliferous vessels take their origin exclusively from the small intestines.

With respect to the nerves in the digestive canal, they are distributed in the inverse order of its vessels, i. e. the cephalic, cervical, and pectoral parts receive a great many more than the abdominal portion, with the exception of the stomach, where the two nerves of the eighth pair are terminated. The remaining portion of the canal receives scarcely any of the cerebral nerves. The only nerves that are there observed, proceed from the sub-diaphragmatic ganglions of the great sympathetic. Farther on, the relation that exists between the mode in which the nerves are distributed, and the functions of the superior and inferior portions of the digestive canal, will be seen.

The bodies which pour fluids into the digestive canal, are, 1st, the digestive *mucous membrane* itself; 2d, some of the *isolated follicles*, which are spread in great number throughout the whole extent of this membrane; 3d, the *conglomerated follicles*, which meet each other at the isthmus faecium, between the pillars of the velum pendulum palati, and sometimes at the junction of the œsophagus and stomach; 4th, the *mucous glands*, which are

found in greater or less number in the parietes of the cheeks, the arch of the palate, and round the œsophagus; 5th, the *parotid, submaxillary and sublingual glands*, which secrete the saliva into the mouth. The *liver* and *pancreas* pour the bile and pancreatic juice through distinct ducts into the upper part of the small intestines, called the *duodenum*.

All the digestive organs contained in the abdominal cavity are immediately covered in a manner more or less perfect by the serous membrane, called the *peritoneum*. This membrane, owing to the manner in which it is disposed, and to its physical and vital properties, is of great use during the process of digestion, whether it be in preserving to the different organs their respective relations, or in favouring the variations of increase or diminution, or in lubricating the intestines when they act upon each other, or the parts in their immediate neighbourhood.

NATURE AND PHYSIC.

Says Nature to Physic, what pity that we,
Who ought to be friends, should so seldom agree:
Who ought to assist and to succour each other,
And in amity live, like a sister and brother.
But to look for this concord, alas, is in vain!
Dame Nature of Physic has much to complain;

Tho' a goddess I am—yet, like the weak sex,
 The more I'm perverse if my temper you vex;
 And your doctors, whate'er they think proper to say,
 For ever are putting me out of my way.
 With medical legions my humours they chase,
 Till pallid resentment appears in my face ;
 Aperients, astringents, narcotics, combine,
 To thwart and oppose me in ev'ry design ;
 And by volleys of pills discharg'd at my head,
 My strength is exhausted, my energy dead.
 But Physic should know I am not to be taught,
 By severe flagellation to do what I ought ;
 That my faults may be mended by gentle correction,
 To which science and talents must give the direction.
 Would you wish then, ye doctors, your practice may prove,
 To conciliate my favour and cherish my love,
 With genius like Huet's* take Nature in hand,
 Conduct by persuasion, not force by command ;
 Her errors he views with a lover's fond sight,
 And courts her when wrong—till she yields to be right.

EMPEROR OF CHINA.

Sir George Staunton used to relate a characteristic anecdote of the Emperor of China. He inquired of Sir George the manner in which physicians were paid in England. When his majesty was made to comprehend what the practice was, he exclaimed, "Can any man in England afford to be ill? Now I will inform you," said he, "how I deal with my physicians. I have four, to whom the care of my health is com-

* The poem was addressed to Dr. Huet.

mitted, and a certain weekly salary is allowed to them; but the moment I am ill, that salary is stopped till I am well again. I need not inform you, that my diseases are never of any long continuance."

FRANCIS J. DE VALANGIN, M. D.

This gentleman studied physic at Leyden, under the celebrated Boerhaave: still, though educated for and brought up to this line of life, it was not his original intention to follow it as a profession, his connections having led him to look for advancement in a different career. Towards the end of the reign of George the Second, he kissed the king's hand, on receiving some diplomatic appointment in the court of Madrid: but, on the retreat of his patron from administration, about the same time, Mr. de Valangin declined the intended honor, and returned to medicine, which he thenceforward followed as a profession, and fixed his abode in Soho-square.

About 1772, he purchased some ground near White Conduit Fields, where he erected a house extensive in its conveniences, but fanciful enough in its construction, being built on a plan laid down by himself. His pursuit in all the branches of knowledge connected with his profession was sedulous in the extreme; and the result was, a discovery of several simple

preparations, which he found of great service in particular cases; one of which, named the Balsam of Life, he presented to Apothecaries' Hall, where it is still sold with his name. For some favour conferred, he was made a livery-man of the corporation of Loriners, and twice served the office of master. Dr. De Valangin had a particular taste for music and painting; in the former art he was not an unsuccessful performer; and has left behind him some remarks on the theory of composition.

MAXWELL GARTHSHORE, M. D.

What is called the destiny of most men in life, turns chiefly on the manner in which their time is spent from 20 to 30. During his residence, as an apothecary, at Uppingham, Dr. Garthshore laid the foundation of many valuable friendships, some of which had a decisive influence on his future proceedings. Among these may be mentioned that of Lord Carberry; of Geo. Brudenell, Esq. 40 years member for the county; of Dr. afterwards Sir George Baker, a name, as his elegant latinity attests, not less eminent as a scholar than as a physician; Dr. R. Pulteney, highly distinguished as a botanist; and, perhaps, above all, the late dean of Christ Church, Dr. Cyril Jackson.

Indeed, from a very early period of life, Dr.

Garthshore had the happiness of exciting goodwill and confidence in men of eminent character. In Lord Charles Hay's regiment he had been professionally connected with Mr. Huck, a gentleman who, through the discerning patronage of Sir John Pingle, a wealthy marriage with the niece of Admiral Sir Charles Saunders, and his own professional merits, acquired much consideration in London as Dr. Huck Saunders. At his death, above 30 years after their acquaintance and intimacy, this gentleman named Dr. Garthshore one of the guardians of his daughters; the elder of whom is now Viscountess Melville, and the youngest Countess of Westmoreland.

SURGICAL ADDRESS.

When Pultowa was besieged by Charles the Twelfth, in 1709, that monarch was so severely wounded, by a cannon-ball in the leg, that the surgeons had determined on amputation. One of them, named Newman, however, undertook to cure the king, without proceeding to this last extremity, provided his majesty would submit to all the incisions requisite to avoid the necessary amputation. The king replied, "I do not wish to be spared more than the lowest of my soldiers. Cut as you think necessary, I command you." Newman, encouraged by this

discourse, made profound incisions, during which the king himself held his leg. The operation was conducted with so much skill, that the king recovered and saved his leg.

This instance shews in what consists the merit of a real surgeon. He saves a limb, which another, less skilful, would have sacrificed. It is easy to find operators, but not so to find well-informed men, who know how to perform a cure and avoid a murderous operation; of such it may be truly said, they are *rari nantes in gurgite vasto.*

MATERIA MEDICA.

Nothing tends more clearly to illustrate the improvements which the healing art has undergone within the last half century, than a comparative view of the past and present state of the *materia medica*. It was by no means uncommon for an hundred, or even more, ingredients to be blended together in one prescription, by which means it became impossible to ascertain either the properties of any of the medicines taken individually, or to separate the efficacious from such as were inert or hurtful. If it must be allowed that we still have sometimes occasion to see medicines somewhat unskillfully or capriciously combined, at least we have discontinued the exhibition of mille-

pedes, dead men's bones, and the farrago of disgusting remedies formerly held in repute:—even the royal touch, and the touch of a felon, are now regarded as pretty much the same. In this country, the works of Duncan, Thompson, and Paris, have greatly contributed to this good effect; and two recent American publications shew, that our transatlantic brethren are not behind-hand in this respect. The authors on the subject to which we allude, are Doctors Chapman and Eberle. The arrangement adopted by the latter, of whose production we shall give some short account, is that proposed by Dr. Granville, which, he is of opinion, combines, in some degree, the advantages both of Cullen's system and that of Alibert. To this choice there can be no particular objection, conceiving it of more importance that a good account of the various medicines in use should be given, than absolute accuracy

* The Portuguese pharmacopœia is nearly upon a level with that of other European nations; but the Spanish pharmacopœia is filled with drugs which would be much better in their proper place—the dunghill, than in the pharmacy, if we may credit the Leipsic Literary Gazette, (Sept. 1823) which specifically quotes the following articles: *excrementa pavonis; æsypus, qui est substantia oleagineosa extractiva lanæ ovinae lotione extracta et inspissata*, (the filth, grease, or oil of sheep's wool before it be washed); *condita intestina lupi; mines integri, &c.*

observed in their arrangement. Some great general divisions, indeed, are requisite to assist the memory, and facilitate the acquisition of knowledge; but, we believe, any of those in use are sufficient for all practical purposes.

There is, in the human mind, a natural tendency to classification; and, when we have the means of founding this upon obvious and undeniable relations, the advantages resulting to science are of the highest importance; witness the various branches of natural history, botany, mineralogy, and zoology. Here the arrangements are founded, not on occult or supposed properties, but on external and visible characters. Not so in medical science: here we have to trace the relations borne by external agents to living bodies—relations so complicated and obscure, as to account, most satisfactorily, for the imperfections of all the systems of *materia medica* hitherto proposed, and leave us but little hope of seeing this defect very speedily removed.

The words of a recent French writer seem applicable to this subject:—" Why reverse the natural order of things, the progressive march of knowledge? To create the classification before the facts, is it not, to use the expression of a celebrated author, *vouloir arranger une chambre vide?*"* Is it not one of the weak-

* To wish to put an empty room in order.

nesses of human nature to wish to arrive at general conclusions before we have collected the details? Have the brilliant efforts of genius advanced science so much as the continued labours of a small number of individuals, born for observation, enlightened, studious, and modest? Let us cease, then, to attach to these systems, which are more or less arbitrary, a degree of importance which is much more imperiously required for the investigation of facts, and the search after truth. Nature derides our classifications and systems; and, while we vainly attempt to subject her phenomena to arrangement purely arbitrary, she amuses herself with creating endless anomalies, which overthrow our systems, confound our theories, and seem to warn us that we are not permitted to raise the veil with which she conceals her sublime operation.*

The first chapter of Dr. Eberle's book is

* Memoire sur cette question proposé par la société de médecine de Paris : "determiner si dans l'état actuel de nos connaissances, on peut établir une classification régulière de Medicaments, fondée sur leurs propriétés médicinales." Par M Cass, Pharmacien, à Lyons.

Memoir on this question proposed by the Society of Medicine, Paris : "To determine whether, in the actual state of our knowledge, a regular classification of medicaments can be established, founded on their medicinal properties." By M. Cass, &c.

devoted to a consideration of the *modus operandi* of medicines, chiefly with a view of invalidating the assertion made by Dr. Chapman, that "the ancient notion, which would refer the operation of medicines to their entrance into the circulation, is perfectly gratuitous, originating at a period of darkness, and when medicine was comparatively in its infancy; and is now abandoned by every one whose intelligence has at all kept pace with the progress of our science." We agree with our author, that this assertion, on the part of Dr. Chapman, is "entirely gratuitous." Opposed to it we have the testimonies of Mayer,* Sir E. Home,† Magendie,‡ Tiedeman, and Gmelin;§ and, should Dr. Chapman disregard the authorities of foreigners, we refer him to the statement of his countrymen, Drs. Haslam, Coates, Lawrence, Macneven, Anderson, and Ducachet, an account of whose most important experiments have, from time to time, appeared in the "London Medical Repository," and other medical journals of this country.

* Archiv. für die Physiologie, von J. F. Meckel.

† Philosophical Transactions, 1811.

‡ Precis Elementaire de Physiologie.

§ Versuche über die Wege, auf welchen Substanzen, aus dem mager und darmcanal ins blut gelangen, u.s.w.
Von F. Tiedeman, M. D. and L. Gmelin, M. D.

EVIDENCE ON A MURDER.

In 1699, Spencer Cowper, an eminent lawyer, and nephew of the Lord Chancellor Cowper, was charged with a murder, but doubts arose whether the lady found dead was drowned by him or any body, or whether she voluntarily drowned herself, for she did not sink, and had no water in her intestines. As it was a case of great moment, the sages of the day were ranged on two sides, and the following is their evidence, copied verbatim from the published trial:—

On *John Dimsdale*, jun. the surgeon, being sworn, *Mr. Cowper* desired that some eminent physicians, that were come from London, might be called into court, and hear the evidence the surgeons gave; whereupon Dr. Sloane, Dr. Garth, Dr. Morley, Dr. Gilstrop, Dr. Harriot, Dr. Wollaston, Dr. Crell, Mr. William Cowper, Mr. Bartlett, and Mr. Camlin, came into court.

Dimsdale then deposed, That he was sent for to *Mrs. Stout's*, and went down with Mr. Camlin and viewed the corpse, and found a little swelling on the side of her neck, and she was black on both sides, more particularly on the left side, and between her breasts, up towards the collar-bone; and there was a little mark upon one of her arms.

Mr. Jones. How were her ears?

Dimsdale. There was a settling of blood on both sides her neck. There was a blackness on both ears.

Cowper. When you returned to the coroner's inquest, what did you certify as your opinion?

Dimsdale. I certified there was a settling of blood, but how it came I could not tell.

Cowper. Did not you say, it was no more than a common stagnation, usual in dead bodies?

Dimsdale. I do not remember a word of it.

Cowper. Had she any circle about her neck?

Dimsdale. No, upon my oath.

Mr. Coatsworth, the surgeon deposed, That in April last he was sent for, by Dr. Phillips, to come to Hertford, to see the body of Mrs. Stout opened, who had been buried six weeks; and the doctor told him there was a suspicion she was murdered, and her relations would have her taken up and opened. That on the 27th of April he lay at Mrs. Stout's, and he understood by her, she wanted to be satisfied whether her daughter was with child. That on the 28th the corpse was opened, that her face and neck, to her shoulders, appeared black, and so much corrupted, that they were unwilling to proceed further; however, her mother would have it done, and she was opened, and they perceived the stomach and guts were as full of wind as if they had been blown with a pair of bellows. That they put the guts aside and came to the uterus, and Dr. Phillips shewed it in his hand, and afterwards cut it out and laid it on the table, and opened it, and they saw into the cavity of it, and if there had been any thing there, as minute as a hair, they might have seen it; but it was perfectly free and empty. That the stomach was opened with an incision knife, and it sunk flat, and let out

wind, but no water. Afterwards they opened the breast and lobes of the lungs, and there was no water; nor any in the diaphragm; but all was dry: and he remembered he then said, this woman could not be drowned, for if she had taken in water, the water must have rotted all the guts. As to any marks about her head and neck, it was impossible to discover them, because they were so rotten. That he told Mrs. Stout and her son, if they imagined the skull to be injured, he would open the head, for if the scalp were never so rotten, if the skull had suffered any impression he should discover it; but they said they did not suspect a broken skull, and consequently he did not examine it.

Jones. But all the other parts were sound?

Coatsworth. Yes, sound, to a miracle; for I did not imagine we could find them so.

Cowper. I think where the coroner's inquest have viewed the body, and the relations have been heard, and the body buried, it ought not to be stirred again for any private inspection of parties that intend to make themselves prosecutors, but if it be taken up, it ought to be done by some legal authority, otherwise a man may be easily trepanned; they might, after the coroner's view, break the skull into a hundred pieces. This was a private view, and, if they intended to prosecute me upon this evidence, they ought to have given notice, that we might have had some surgeons among them to superintend their proceedings; and, therefore, with submission, this ought not to be given in evidence.

Bar. Hatsel. If they did take up the body without notice, why should not that be evidence?

Cowper. Had you a *melius inquirendum*, or any lawful warrant, for making this inspection?

Coatsworth. No, there was not.

Bar. Hatsel. Suppose they did an ill thing, in taking up the body without some order; though I know no more ill in taking up that than another body; but, however, is that any reason we should not hear this evidence?

Coatsworth. Mr. Camlin, Sir William Cowper's surgeon, was there.

Mr. Dimsdale, sen. deposed, That he was at the opening of the body, and that they found it as sound as any flesh could be: that they searched the stomach and thorax, and found not one drop of water about it; and that he saw no manner of sign of conception in the uterus. That they had, afterwards, a consultation to consider if she was drowned or not, and they were all of opinion she was not drowned, except Mr. Camlin, who desired he might be excused giving his opinion whether she was drowned or not.

Jones. Why did you believe she was not drowned?

Dimsdale. Because we found no water in her, and if there had been water in her it would have caused a fermentation, and that would have rotted her lungs and guts.

Bar. Hatsel. Could you tell, so many weeks after, whether she was drowned or no?

Dimsdale. Yes, for if she had been drowned, there had been some sign of water; if there had been a pint

of water, it would have rotted her lights and her guts ; that is done in a week's time by fermentation.

Cowper. Is it possible, after six weeks time, there should be water in the thorax ?

Dimsdale. I believe there may be some, for it can't get out after the body is dead, but by putrefaction, and there was no putrefaction ; but it was very firm and sound.

Bar. Hatsel. What parts would you have putrified by the water ?

Dimsdale. The lungs and bowels.

Juryman. Was her navel started ?

Dimsdale. No ; I never saw such a body in my life.

Cowper. Did you ever see a body that was drowned, opened six weeks after ?

Dimsdale. No, but if a body be drowned a fortnight, the bowels will be so rotten there will be no coming near it ; and I took particular notice, and did not see one drop of water, the coffin was close and dry, and all parts of her sound, but the head and neck, and left arm.

Jones. What do you take to be the cause of that ?

Dimsdale. I can't judge of that.

John Dimsdale, jun. deposed, That the body was opened before he came, and they were drawing up an affidavit, that there was no water in it, which they desired him to sign, supposing he had seen it ; that then he went and looked into the body, and turned the intestines aside, and found no water in it ; but the head from the neck was very much putrified.

Jones. What difference was there between the

child that was drowned, (and you opened) and this body?

Dimsdale. The child was extremely swelled in the body and stomach, and had abundance of water in it.

Cowper. How long was it before the child was opened?

Dimsdale. It was drowned in the afternoon, and opened the next morning.

Dr. Robert Dimsdale deposed, That he came, with his brother, after the body was opened, and they were setting their hands to a paper, and desired them to set their hands, and that, thereupon, they went and opened the body again, and they did not find a drop of water, either in the thorax or abdomen.

Bar. Hatsel. Could you expect to find it six weeks after?

Dr. Dimsdale. We should have expected that or a putrefaction; but we found no putrefaction, either in the bowels or intestines, but only upon her head and shoulders, and one arm.

Cowper. Pray, by what passage does the water go into the thorax?

Dr. Dimsdale. 'Twill be difficult for me to describe the manner here, but we should have found some in the stomach and intestines.

Cowper. Pray, sir, how should it go into the thorax?

Dr. Dimsdale. By the *lymphæduct*, if carried by any means.

Cowper. Can water pass into the body after it is dead?

Dr. Dimsdale. No, for all parts are closed and contracted; but we opened the abdomen of the child that was drowned, and found in the several cavities abundance of water.

Cowper. If a dead body be put into the water, will not the water come into the wind-pipe?

Dr. Dimsdale. I question whether it will or no.

Cowper. Did not you give some certificate, concerning the death of this gentlewoman, before you saw the body?

Dr. Dimsdale. No, I did not.

Cowper. Was not you angry with Camlin, because he would not join with you; and told him you was a graduate physician?

Dr. Dimsdale. Yes, we had some words about it.

Dr. Coatsworth deposed, That it was his opinion, that every body that is drowned, is suffocated by water passing down the wind-pipe into the lungs, upon respiration; and, at the same time, the water pressing upon the gullet, there will be a necessity of swallowing a great deal into the stomach: that he had been near drowning himself, and was forced to swallow a great quantity of water. If a person was drowned, and taken out immediately, as soon as the suffocation was effected, he should not wonder if there was but a little water in the stomach and guts; but if it lay in the water several hours, it must be strange if the belly was not full of water; though he could not say it was impossible to be otherwise.

Cowper. But you struggled to save yourself from drowning.

Dr. Coatsworth. I did so: I have seen several persons that have been drowned, and lain several days, until, by a fermentation, they have been raised; but I never made observations on persons who had been drowned about six hours.

Dr. Naylor said, He was of opinion, if a body was drowned it would have a quantity of water in it; and if there was no water in the body, he should believe the person was dead before it was put into the water.

Cowper. Was not you a constant voter against the interest of our family, in this corporation?

Dr. Naylor. I never came to give a vote, but Sir William Cowper, or his son, opposed it, and said, I had no right to vote.

Cowper. The Dimsdales are of the same party? I would have asked them this question.

Bar. Hatsel. It is not material, as they are witnesses.

Babington, a surgeon, said, He was of opinion too, that persons who are drowned, whether by design or accident, would have water in them, and sink as soon as they are drowned, and don't rise so soon as this gentlewoman did. That he had a patient who was half an hour under water, and lived several hours afterwards; and, in that time, discharged a great quantity of water.

Cowper. Did the woman you speak of go into the water voluntarily, or fall in by accident?

Babington. By accident; but I don't believe that alters the case.

Dr. Burnet delivered his opinion, That if a person falls into the water by accident, or throws himself in,

the body will receive water as long as it is alive; but after all endeavours for respiration were over, he thought no water could come in, for that all the parts were closed.

Mr. Jones. Do they swim or sink?

Dr. Burnet. They sink: I never saw a person drowned taken up without water; but I have seen several full of water.

Dr. Woodhouse was of opinion, That where a person is suffocated by water, he must have a great deal of water in his stomach, and some in his lungs; that he had opened a child that had a great quantity of water in it, and some in the throat.

Cowper. Which way can it pass into the thorax?

Dr. Woodhouse. While a person is struggling for respiration, there may be a relaxation of—and the person must suck in water as well as air; and some water may get into the wind-pipe, and so into the lungs.

Cowper. Is there a passage from the lungs to the thorax?

Dr. Woodhouse. The wind-pipe is the conveyance to the lungs, the lungs lie in the thorax, and the person, in respiration, takes down some water there, though the greater quantity will be in the stomach.

Bar. Hatsel. Will the inwards putrify in a little time?

Dr. Woodhouse. If water gets into the stomach, or wherever it is, it will putrify very soon.

Dr. Hans Sloane delivered it as his opinion, That a great quantity of water, swallowed by the gullet into the stomach, would not suffocate or drown a

person; but he had observed a few spoonfuls, going into the windpipe, choak a person. And he believed, whether a person came dead or alive into the water, some quantity would get into the windpipe; but he thought, without force, little would go into the stomach after death. For if it should, swallowing was necessary; which, after death, could not be done.

Bar. Hatsel. But if water had been in the body, would it not have putrified the parts, after it had lain six weeks?

Dr. Sloane. I'm apt to think it would have putrified the stomach less than the lungs; because the stomach is contrived for receiving liquids; whereas the lungs are only for receiving air. They being of a spongy nature, the water might sink more into them, than into the stomach; but I believe it would putrify them too, after some time. When a body is buried, the fermentation will be greater or lesser, according to the depth of the grave, the difference of the weather and soil, and the several kinds of meats and liquids in the stomach. And, no doubt, but there will be a fermentation, more or less, according as the air comes to the body; but where the air is wholly shut out, it may be otherwise. And this is, at present, supposed to be the ancient way of embalming; and is supposed to be, in a great measure, owing to the closeness of the coffin.

Cowper. Is it possible for any water to pass into the thorax?

Dr. Sloane. It is hardly possible any should go from the windpipe into the cavity of the thorax, without great violence; for there is a membrane that covers

the outside of the lungs, and will hinder the water passing through it, into any part without them.

Cowper. Do you think it possible to find water in a drowned body, after six weeks time?

Dr. Sloane. I am apt to think, if there was any quantity in the lungs, the spunginess of them would suck up some part of it. And as to the stomach, if there was any great fermentation, 'twas likely a great part of it would rise up in steams and vapours, and would go off that way.

Dr. Garth said, He agreed with Mr. Coatsworth, and the rest of the king's witnesses, as to Mrs. Stout's not being with child; but he could not conclude with them that she was murdered; either because they found no great quantity of water in her; or, because her head was mortified, and not her lungs and bowels; and was of opinion, that water did not hasten putrefaction. And as to the putrefaction of the head, it might happen from a stoppage of the refluent blood; which is staid in a great quantity, through the suffocation in the water; or from the nearness of the brain, which is observed to mortify first.

That, as to the floating of the body, he held it impossible the body should have floated unless it had rested or been entangled among the stakes. For that all dead bodies, he believed, would fall to the bottom; unless they were prevented by some extraordinary tumour. And as the witnesses agreed she was found upon her side, it was as hard to conceive she should float so, as that a deal-board should float edgeways: and therefore he thought it plain she was entangled.

That he believed, when she threw herself in, she

might not struggle to save her life; and, consequently, not sup up much water. For there was no direct passage into the stomach, but by the gullet; which is contracted or pursed up by a muscle, in the nature of a sphincter.

Bar. Hatsel. What do you say to what Dr. Sloane said, that water in the body will putrify it?

Dr. Garth. I say not; for in some places they keep flesh from corrupting by preserving it in water; and it is well known, it will putrify less so, than when exposed to air.

Bar. Hatsel. What do you say to what the seamen said, that those who die at sea, and are thrown over-board, won't sink without a weight tied to them?

Dr. Garth. The seamen are a superstitious people: they fancy, that whistling at sea will occasion a tempest. We have tried some experiments on other dead animals, since we came hither; and they certainly sink. And there is reason to suspect the seaman's evidence; for he said, sixty pound weight was allowed to sink a dead body, when six or seven pound would do as well. But the design of tying weights to their dead bodies is, to prevent their floating afterwards.

Cowper. Could any quantity of water enter the cavity of the thorax?

Dr. Garth. It is impossible there should, until the lungs are quite rotten; there is no way but by the lungs, and they are invested with so strong a membrane, that we cannot force breath with our blow-pipes through it.

Dr. Morley said, He was of opinion, that there was no necessity a person drowned should have a great quantity of water in him; that two ounces of water would drown a man as well as two tun: that they drowned a dog the last night, and found not a spoonful of water in his stomach, and about two ounces in his lungs; that they drowned another, and he did not float, but sunk to the bottom; and when they opened him they found much the same quantity of water in his lungs, and hardly any in the stomach; that both frothed at nose and mouth; and he thought if bodies new killed swim, it was by accident; and the reason that bodies swim afterwards was, because, by putrefaction, they rarify and grow lighter.

Cowper. Is it possible to know, six weeks after, if a person was drowned?

Dr. Morley. I think it morally impossible.

Cowper. Can there be any water in the thorax?

Dr. Morley. By an imposthume, or violence to nature, possibly, not otherwise.

Dr. Wollaston said, He was of opinion, it was impossible to know whether a person was drowned six weeks after; that had there been never so much water in the body it must have forced its way out; that there was nothing to hinder its working out when it ferments, as it always does: that about three years since, he saw two men that were drowned out of the same boat, and taken up the next day; one of them was prodigiously swelled and black in the face, the other not in the least swelled or discoloured, but lank as ever he was in his life, and not

the least water in him; except a watery froth at his mouth and nostrils.

Mr. Jones. Did you see the bodies taken out of the water?

Dr. Wollaston. No, but I enquired, and to the best of my remembrance, it was the same day.

Bar. Hatsel. What do you think of a person's being drowned without taking in any water?

Dr. Wollaston. What is taken in is chiefly at the surface of the water, when they open their mouths for breath the water rushes in, and they drink it down to keep it from their lungs; but when the head is quite under water, I don't think it possible for any great quantity to get down into the stomach, because it being breath they open for, the very first water they take in would of necessity fill the lungs; and when the breath is stopped, I don't see how they can swallow.

Dr. Gilstrop declared, He did not think any judgment could be made of persons being drowned six weeks after: that no water could go into the thorax till the lungs be putrified, and that there was not a greater quantity of water necessary to drown a man, than would hinder respiration.

Mr. William Cowper declared, He was a stranger to Mr. Cowper, the prisoner, though of the same name: he said, that in this case, it was not to be expected that any more than froth would issue out of the mouth of the deceased; but had she been thrown into the water, and made her utmost efforts to have saved herself, and been often buoyed up to the top of the water, she would have swallowed a

considerable quantity before she had been drowned ; and if her head had been inclined downwards, it might have been expected to flow from her ; but when the head of an animal was under water, the first time it was obliged to inspire (or draw in the air) the water would necessarily flow into its lungs, and that the dimension of the wind-pipe and its branches, not amounting to three inches square, would not contain above three ounces of water, and consequently a greater quantity was not necessary to choak a person : that he had caused three dogs to be drowned, and there was not more than three ounces of water in their lungs, and none in their stomachs ; and that it was ridiculous to expect water in the cavity of the thorax, unless the lungs had suffered some appostumation.

Cowper. I think it a proper time to observe, that though the king's witnesses say they believe she was not drowned, they have not pretended to say, how she died otherwise.

Bar. Hatsel. That's very true.

Dr. Crell said, That Ambrose Parry, chief surgeon to Francis I. was of opinion, that the certain sign of a man's being drowned was, an appearance of froth about his nostrils and mouth.

Mr. Harriot deposed, That when he was a surgeon in the fleet, he observed, when they threw men over-board that were killed, some of them swam, and some sunk.

Bar. Hatsel. When a dead body is thrown over-board, does it sink or swim ?

Mr. Harriot. I always observed they sunk when we were in the channel.

Mr. Bartlet deposed, He had been in several engagements, and never saw any of them swim upon the surface of the water.

Dr. Camlin deposed, That the coroner desired Mr. Dimsdale and himself to take notice of the marks upon the neck and breast of the deceased, and that they viewed the body, and perceived a mark under her left ear, and a settlement of blood upon her breast, and another upon her arm; and when they returned to the jury, Mr. Dimsdale spoke for them both, and said, it was a stagnation that did commonly happen to drowned people; and that was also the deponent's opinion. That the deponent was also present when a child, of eleven or twelve years old, who was drowned near the same place, a little time after, was taken up, and there were greater signs of the stagnation of blood on the body of this child than on the body of Mrs. Stout; the child's face was black and discoloured.

Mr. Cowper was acquitted.

ZACUTUS.

This eminent Portuguese physician was born at Lisbon, and called by some Lusitaaus. He studied philosophy and medicine at Salamanca and Coimbra, and took his degree as doctor in 1594, at Saguntum, now called Murviedto, a celebrated university of Spain. After this, he practised physic at Lisbon, till 1624,

when, by an edict of Philip the Fourth, who governed Spain with a high hand, the whole race of Jews were interdicted the kingdom. Zacutus, being a Jew, betook himself to the low countries, and practised chiefly at Amsterdam and the Hague, at the former of which places he died, in 1641. His works, written in Latin, were printed at Lyons, two volumes, folio. Before the second is placed what he calls "*Introitus ad Pranius*," wherein he sets forth the qualities of a physician, moral as well as practical, and shews, not only what are the qualifications of a good physician, but, also, what are the duties of a good man.

LETT SOM AND BRODUM.

In 1806, Dr. Lettsom determined to blow up the quacks, and he prevailed on Phillips, the proprietor of the "Medical Journal," to allow him to insert, in that work, an anonymous article, per number, on each of the advertising quacks of the country. Lettsom began with Brodum, proprietor of the Nervous Cordial, and other furiously advertised preparations, and, without ceremony, charged him with killing thousands by their indiscriminate use; and, to undermine Brodum, stated that he had been a shoe-black at Copenhagen, a Jew-vender of oranges, &c.; finally, footman to a mounte-

bank. All this might be partly true, but it could not be legally proved, or justified by evidence in a court of law. Brodum, to whom the costs of a suit were of no importance, set his attorney to work, and Phillips, the printer, and three or four vendors, were served with actions for 5000*l.* damages. Phillips called on Lettsom, and the whole College, one by one, to enable him to justify, but in vain; for not one could prove that Brodum had killed even a single swallower of his nostrums. The lawyers held consultations, and the ingenious Garrow was anxious to get his brother-in-law, Lettsom, out of the scrape. In the mean time Brodum's attorney pressed for the proceedings. At length, the Editor of a newspaper stept between Phillips and Brodum, who agreed to withdraw his actions and submit to the costs, provided the author was given up; but, if not, then he expected all expenses to be paid without demur; that the anthon should white-wash him in the next Journal, under the same signature, and further, that Phillips and the newspaper Editor should dine with him. Lettsom gladly paid the two attorneys' bills, amounting to 390*l.*, Phillips had a splendid dinner, and the next Medical Journal contained a high eulogium on the talents and virtues of Dr. Brodum! Of course, Lettsom left the quacks to themselves.

DANIEL TURNER.

We learn the state of Surgery in 1703, by "A Letter to Charles Bernard, Esq. on the present state of Chirurgery," written by Turner, in which he says, "I can't persuade myself, but that the art of chirurgery is at this time in a more flourishing state than ever, and am inclined to believe that the city of London can produce a greater number of men eminent in that profession than any other in the world."

THE TWO MORTARS.

A young sprig of Esculapius, who had just made his *debut* in the shop of a fashionable apothecary, was struck, on the first day of his apprenticeship, by the discordant and indeed very dissimilar noise incessantly kept up by two mortars, or rather the pestles in the hands of their respective automata. The thumps of one resembled those conferred by a vigorous paviour on the stones in the street; the other, that of a silver bell, which, in Catholic countries, announces the Host. After some consideration, he ventured to inquire the reason of a dispenser of the blessings of physic, of somewhat longer standing than himself, by whom he was informed, that in the larger metallic mortar were prepared the medicines for the poorer patients,

whose pay was uncertain; and that the monotonous tones emitted by it, being translated into English, were a perpetual repetition of "Die and be d—d, Die and be d—d;" while the nice little glass mortar and pestle were used for the exclusive benefit of the rich and liberal patients, as might be easily gathered from his own expressions, 'Linger and live, Linger and live.' Probably the youngster never received, in the course of his professional studies, a more wholesome lesson, or one from which he derived more profit.

WINSLOW.

The science of surgery, but more particularly that of anatomy, is greatly indebted to Winslow for many new lights, the result of continued research and acute observation. He was thus enabled to find out the source of uncommon diseases, and apply successful remedies. His first treatise, on individual parts of the human body, procured him great honor, abroad as well as at home. It contained a great number of discoveries, which alone would have been sufficient to rank him among the foremost of the learned. He took a survey of the whole system of the human body, and collected into one point all the experience and knowledge which he had acquired of every

individual part, their relation to each other, and their effects individually and generally. Of all this he published an anatomical explanation, which was regarded as the completest and best work at that time known. This treatise was received with great avidity, and rendered the author's name so celebrated, that when the physicians at Paris rebuilt their anatomical theatre, Winslow was solicited to deliver lectures there. The faculty wishing to attract attention to the theatre, considered it a high honor thus publicly to exhibit a man who was esteemed the most celebrated anatomist of the age.

Winslow was born at Odense, in Funen, and his father, a clergyman, intended him for the church. He had scarcely attained the necessary age before a living was offered to him, where he might have passed his life at ease; but a close intimacy having commenced between him and a young student in physic, remarkable for his assiduity, he was induced to attach himself to that science.

Winslow, on resolving to become a surgeon, laid the foundation of his future knowledge in his own country; he afterwards went to France, where that science flourished. He received some trifling support from Denmark; but as soon as this ceased, his diligence and erudition

paved the way, step by step, to those posts of honor which he ultimately filled.

It ought to be remarked, that some years before Winslow became so celebrated, Strenonius, a gentleman of the same family, and a native of Copenhagen, acquired nearly as great a name by equal diligence in the same sciences. He also made discoveries in anatomy, and probably would have left less for Winslow to make known, had he continued his anatomical researches; but he changed his studies. Winslow became an anatomist from being a divine, and Strenonius a divine from being an anatomist.

CASE OF LIGATION OF THE ARTERIA INNOMINATA.

This herculean and almost incredible operation was performed by Dr. Mott, at the New-York hospital.—The patient fell by accident upon his arm and shoulder, in consequence of which a violent pain and swelling in his right shoulder followed, and soon after a slight pulsation was detected under the clavicle. At length he felt a pain as if something had rent; the tumefaction immediately increased to a great size, and the pulsations became more distinct, particularly on the inferior side of the clavicle. He became

very feeble, and had a violent cough. On the 7th of May, Dr. Mott called in Doctors Post, Kissam, and Stevens, when it was agreed to tie the subclavian artery, and if it was found affected, to put a ligature on the common trunk. On the 11th, the operation was proceeded with, the patient having previously taken seventy drops of Tinct. Opii. Two incisions were made, one in the direction of the clavicle, and the other along the sterno-cleido-mastoideus. The carotid was laid bare, and traced towards the subclavian, which was found so diseased, that they had no alternative but to tie the innominate. They accordingly carried the incisions deeper, and separating the recurrent and the phrenic nerves, they came to the division, and passed the ligature with a curved needle, about half-an-inch higher. The parts were then brought together by suture, and the wound then bandaged. Three arteries only were divided—a branch of the internal mammary, and two which arose from the inferior and superior thyroid. He lost about three ounces of blood only.

Immediately after the operation, the patient felt quite well—pulse 60—temperature of the arm, nearly the same as the other—respiration was unchanged. From this period to the twenty-second day, he continued to improve, the

suppuration went on well, the ligatures came away without accident, and the pulse, which had risen to 120, was reduced by venesection to its natural standard, the cough was disappearing, cicatrization was going on properly, and the swelling becoming gradually less. He was in high spirits, and so far recovered, that he walked daily in the garden of the hospital. Suddenly, however, on the 24th day, hemorrhage took place; and, though it was soon restrained, and there was little loss of blood, it recurred twice in the next two days, respiration became painful, and the patient died on the 26th day.

Eighteen hours after death, the wound was black and foetid. No trace of inflammation was discovered either in the arch of the aorta, the origin of the arteria innominata, or in the lungs. The internal membrane of the innominata was smooth and soft, and its parietes were so thick, that there was only room for a crow-quill to pass. The subclavian artery opened into the tumour; the carotid was filled with coagulated blood. The arteries of the arm were healthy. The clavicle was carious, and almost separated in the middle. Death was evidently caused by extensive suppuration.

DR. BARKER.

" Dr. Barker, being by education a dissenter, studied physic at Leyden; on his return to this country, he was introduced to us by Dyer, having been a fellow-student with him, and with Akenside, Askew, Munckly, Mr. Dyson of the House of Commons, and others, few of whom are now living. From the conversation of these persons, he learned the principles of Lord Shaftsbury's philosophy, and became, as most of them were, a favourer of his notions, and an acute reasoner on the subject of ethics. He was an excellent classical scholar, a deep metaphysician, and had enriched his fancy by reading the Italian poets; but he was a thoughtless young man, and in dress and appearance so slovenly, that he became the jest of all his companions. Physicians, in his time, were accustomed to be full dressed; and in his garb of a full suit, a brown tie-wig with a knot over one shoulder, a long yellow-hilted sword, and his hat under his arm, he was a caricature. In his religious principles he professed himself an unitarian, for which Johnson so often snubbed him, that his visits to us became daily less frequent. After such a description, it is needless to add, that Barker did not succeed

in his profession. Upon his leaving us, he practised at Trowbridge ; but, at the end of two years, returned to London, and became librarian to the College of Physicians, in the room of Edwards, the ornithologist ; for some misbehaviour, however, he was displaced, and died in obscurity."—(*Hawkins's Life of Dr. Johnson.*)

PROFESSIONAL SECRECY REWARDED.

It is said that Dr. Mead owed his rise in life from being called to a certain intoxicated Duchess at midnight. The doctor, also, was by no means reputed for the sobriety of his habits, and being in a similar situation to that of his patient, while he was in the act of feeling her grace's pulse, slipped his foot ; on which he immediately ejaculated, "drunk, by G—d," in allusion to himself. The Duchess imagining he had found out her complaint, which she strove by every means in her power to conceal, whispered to him, that if he kept it a secret, she would recommend him. The secret was kept, she was as good as her word, and Mead made his fortune.

WESLEY'S CURE FOR RUPTURE.

"This eminent divine prescribes, in his primitive physic, the following absurdity for rupture in children. "Boil," says he "a spoonful of

egg-shells, dried in an oven, and powdered, in a pint of milk, and feed the child constantly with bread boiled in this milk."

ANTHONY STARK, M. D.

Few medical men have acted as fairly by their patients as Dr. Stark; who, before he recommended the use of the meadow-saffron root, tried it upon himself in a crude state, until he was reduced to the brink of the grave. Dr. Stark should, however, be excepted, who undertook some experiments on diet, and prosecuted them with such imprudent zeal, that they proved fatal to him, in his twenty-ninth year.

JOSHUA WARD,

Better known by the name of *Spot Ward*, from one side of his face being marked with a claret-coloured *nævus maternus*, is alluded to in the following couplet:

Of late, without the least pretence to skill,
Ward's grown a fam'd physician by a pill.

General Churchill was the primary puffer of Ward's pill at court; and Lord Chief Baron Reynolds soon after published "its miraculous effects on a maid-servant," according to some

doggrel verses of Sir William Brown, addressed to "Dr. Ward, a quack of merry memory," under the title of "The Pill Plot; or The Daily Courant's miraculous Discovery, upon the ever-memorable 28th day of November, 1784. For, from the Doctor himself being a Papist, and distributing his pills to the poor gratis, by the hands of the Lady Gage, also a Papist, the pill must be, beyond all doubt, a deep-laid plot to introduce Popery."

The fact that medicines, once so celebrated, are now almost forgotten, has induced some to question their title to the reputation which they obtained. When we recollect, however, the basis of these preparations, and the wonder-working operations of chemistry upon it, it would be absurd to doubt their active power; besides which, Ward, though his medical education was not conformable to College routine, possessed considerable natural powers, with an abundant share of acuteness and common sense.

DR. M'GHIE,

A Scotchman by birth, was educated in one of the Universities of that country, for the profession of Physic. In the rebellion of 1745, he, with a party of young men who as volunteers had associated on the side of government, bore arms, and was engaged in the skirmish at

Falkirk, which he ever spoke of as an ill-conducted business. When matters had become more quiet in Scotland, he took a doctor's degree and came to London, where, trusting to the friendship of his countrymen, he hoped to succeed in practice; but the town was overstocked with Scotch Physicians, and he met with little encouragement; though by the favour of Dr. Benjamin Avery, the Treasurer of Guy's Hospital, who had been a dissenting teacher, and was then at the head of that interest, he was appointed one of the Physicians of that charity. He was a learned, ingenuous, and modest man; and one of those few of his country whom Johnson could endure. To say the truth, he treated him with great civility, and may almost be said to have loved him. He inherited a patrimony too small for his subsistence, and failing in the hope of getting forward in his profession, he died of a broken heart, and was buried by a contribution of his friends.

DR. ARBUTHNOT

Was a man of consummate probity, integrity, and sweetness of temper: he had infinitely more learning than Pope or Swift, and as much wit and humour as either of them. He was an excellent mathematician and physician, of which his Letter on the Usefulness of Mathe-

matical Learning, and his Treatise on Air and Aliment, are sufficient proofs. His Tables of Ancient Coins, Weights and Measures, are the works of a man intimately acquainted with ancient history and literature, and are enlivened with many curious and interesting particulars of the manner and ways of living of the ancients. The History of John Bull, the best part of the Memoirs of Scriblerus; the Art of Political Lying; the Freeholder's Catechism; It cannot Rain but it Pours, &c. abound in strokes of the most exquisite humour. It is known that he gave numberless hints to Swift, and Pope, and Gay, to which the most striking parts of their works are indebted. He was so neglectful of his writings, that his children tore his manuscripts, and made paper kites of them. Few letters in the English language are so interesting, or contain so much of christian resignation and calmness of mind, as one that he wrote to Swift a little before his death. He frequently, and ably, and warmly, in many conversations, defended the cause of revelation against the attacks of Bolingbroke and Chesterfield.

ODIUM MEDICORUM.

Those who engage keenly in medical disputes
are generally men

“ Whose souls the furies steel'd,
And curs'd with hearts unknowing how to yield.”

The true *odium medicorum* approaches nearer than any thing else known in human nature, to the genuine *odium theologicum*. It has even been doubted by competent judges which of the two is worse; for those Physicians have never yet carried the joke so far as to burn alive their adversaries whom they could not convert, as Dominican monks and others used to do very successfully to their obstinate opponents, yet there is reason to suspect, that this reserve and delicacy, on the part of our Faculty, has proceeded more from want of power, than from any want of good-will to the work. It is certain, at least, that at one time, about two hundred and fifty years ago, in Spain and Portugal, they fairly tried it, and that they had well nigh succeeded in their attempt.

There can be no doubt, that the inveterate rancour of medical men, in all their professional disputes, is one of the bad effects of “the fruit of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste brought death into the world, and all our woe,” or of some degenerate bastard sort of it, which is every where to be met with; and seems to produce effects almost as bad as the genuine poison. It is remarkable, that of the fruit of medical knowledge it is very easy to get a mouthful, and very difficult to get a belly-full, it being in such general request; and still more

remarkable, that the smallest portion of it, so small a portion as to elude all observation, often produces more violent effects than the largest quantity of it, that any person has hitherto been able to procure for himself. In some constitutions, the effects of a small particle of it are more ridiculous than dangerous, the patient only prattling foolishly, and acting absurdly a thousand ways, but not becoming mischievous or outrageous. In other constitutions, the effects of a small mouthful of that unlucky fruit are much more alarming than those of deadly night-shade or the strongest Scotch whiskey; the patient not only talks, and writes, and acts absurdly, and sometimes outrageously, but quarrels implacably with all who differ from him in opinion, especially with his own professional brethren.

Hence it is, that much more than ninety-nine parts in the hundred of all that has been written on the theory and practice of physic, for more than two thousand years, is absolutely useless, and worthy to be known but as a matter of curiosity, or a miserable warning and example of the worst errors to which we are prone. A large proportion of those writings consists of controversies generally carried on with the bitterest animosity. Though I am

not so well acquainted with the particulars, I know in general that the same is true with respect to the writings on the theory and practice of surgery.—*Gregory.*

DR. MONRO AND DR. BATTIE.

Forty or fifty years ago, Dr. Battie, a physician accustomed to the care of mad patients, published a book upon madness. Scarcely was it published, when Dr. Monro, (John Monro, senior, of Bethlehem Hospital,) who seems to have been much his superior in wit and talents, fell upon him, and gave him such an unmerciful drubbing as no mad doctor or mad patient ever got before. By the happiest application that ever was, or ever will be, made of a line of Horace—

O major, tandem pacas, insane minore!

which he put on the title-page of his book, he contrived to represent Battie as more mad than his own patients, and his (Monro's) flogging as only an admonition to him, to have mercy on those who are less mad than himself. Such a pamphlet was enough to drive a whole college of physicians mad.

MINERAL WATERS.

An amiable young lady, affected with dejection of spirits, was ordered by her physician to take the waters of Passey for six weeks, from which, however, she derived no benefit. The person who served her with the bottles of water, being one day in the shop of a wine and spirit merchant, who was laughing at the inefficacy of the ferruginous waters, and said in the true spirit of his trade, that the young lady would derive more benefit from a proper dose of neat Geneva, he at last succeeded in persuading the person to substitute a bottle of gin for the mineral water. The spirit was in due form put into a basin of warm water, and the quantity of half-a-pint carried to the lady by her waiting-maid. Owing to the precaution taken by the patient of holding her nose to avoid the smell of the water, the whole was swallowed without suspicion; but the dose quickly manifested itself in the stomach. Symptoms of complete intoxication supervened, and free vomiting took place; but what is still more remarkable, (the fact is recorded, in p. 150 of the *Journale Encyclopedique*,) that at the termination of this crisis the patient felt herself perfectly relieved from all her complaints, and had no farther occasion for a Physician.

THE ACME OF MEDICAL HONOURS.

In the duchy of Wirtemberg the executioner is not considered infamous ; people eat, drink, and visit him. Each execution he performs, acquires him a title of honour ; and, when he has completed a certain number, he is dignified with the degree of Doctor of Physic. If it be true, that in every country good physicians are only to be made by killing men, still it is not by hanging them. It is certainly a pleasant fancy this, to obtain degrees in medicine by hanging felons up by the neck, and breaking their bones upon the wheel !

PETER LOWE'S EPITAPH.

All that is known of this author is from his works, which shew that he was born in Scotland ; that he practised twenty years in French Flanders ; and had been two years surgeon-major to a Spanish regiment at Paris, and had then followed the king of France (Henry IV.) his master, in his wars, six years. In the title-page of his book, entitled "A Discourse on the whole Art of Surgery," he calls himself "Doctor in the Faculty of Surgery at Paris, and Ordinary Surgeon to the King of France and Navarre." His book is dated Glasgow, Dec. 20th, 1612.

Pennant, in his *Tour to the Hebrides*, (p. 134,) copies his Epitaph in the cathedral church of Glasgow, which conveys an amiable picture of his character, viz.

Stay, passenger, and read this stone,
For under it lies such a one,
Who cured many while he liv'd;
So gracious he no man griev'd,
Yea, when his physick's force oft fail'd,
His pleasant purpose then prevail'd,
For of his God he got the grace,
To live in mirth and eke in peace;
Heav'n has his soule, his corpse this stone;
Sigh, passenger, and then begone.

It bears date 1612, the same year in which he published his Discourse on Surgery.

DISSECTION.

Some of the most celebrated of the anatomical theatres are decorated with inscriptions illustrative of the purposes to which they are dedicated. At Toulouse, for instance, one reads,

Hic locus est ubi mors gaudet succurrere vitæ.

Over the school of Surgery at Paris, we read the following, from the pen of SANTEUIL.

Ad cædes hominum prisca amphitheatra patebant,
Ut discant longùm vivere nostra patent.

WILLIAM RONDELET, a celebrated physician of Montpelier, had a zeal quite outrageous for dissecting. It is asserted, that he dissected one of his own children to satisfy himself concerning the cause of its death. His pupil, Posthious, acquainted us, that Rondelet, while visiting his friend and colleague, Pontanus, who was dangerously ill, earnestly solicited him, that he would order in his will, that his body might be delivered to him for dissection.

RIOLAN agitates the question, whether it be lawful to dissect living persons, for the purpose of promoting knowledge? and, what is more surprising, he concludes in the affirmative, that cases may occur in which this species of dissection may be justified. He endeavours to confirm his opinion by divers examples. Manners must have changed since that period; for it is not probable that, at the present day, a surgeon could be found barbarous enough to dissect a living human being. Such dissections were practised by the physicians of antiquity, and probably on criminals sentenced to death, as we find that Celsus reprobates the practice as cruel, barbarous, and horrid.

The number of persons who have bequeathed their bodies, whole, or in part, for the benefit of posterity, is not so small as might be

surmised. Vaugelas, in his last will, after having disposed of all his effects to pay his debts, adds, "But as certain creditors may remain unpaid, even after all my goods are disposed of, it is my last will that my body be sold to the Surgeons, on the most advantageous terms, and that the produce be applied to the liquidation of those debts for which I may be responsible; so that if I have not been able to render myself useful to society during my life, I may be so, in some measure, after my death."

A PERSON filling a high public situation at Paris, a few years ago, left a similar legacy; and the late Dr. Mounsey not only bequeathed his body for dissection, but left the operator a pecuniary gratuity.

PERCIVAL POTT,

The first surgeon of his day, and a scientific writer, was remarkable for the classic purity of his style, the scrupulous precision of his definition, and the unerring closeness of his argument: he may be compared to Celsus, the works of each being elegant specimens of the language in which they wrote.

"His life," says an enthusiastic admirer, "was a national blessing, his death a national loss; he

enlarged the bounds of art, human malady shrunk before him; he was eyes to the blind, and feet to the lame."

He predominated, early in life, in a profession which has been said not to procure the members of it bread till they have no teeth to eat it; particularly as a consulting surgeon, a post generally occupied by medical veterans. For fifty years he discharged, with fidelity and honour, the appointment of Surgeon and Lecturer to a large hospital; and both as a professional man, and a gentleman, he united powers to improve the rising generation by precept and example.

JEAN PITARD,

Surgeon to St. Louis, Philippe le Hardi, and Philippe le Bel; from the last of these sovereigns he obtained an edict, dated November 1311, which commences in the following curious style:—"Le Souverain instruit des brigandages qui se commettoient dans le profession de la Chirurgie, deshonorée par une foule de Patriciens qui sont qualifiés de *Meurtriers, de Voleurs, de Faux, Monnoyeurs, d' Alchimistes, de Fripons*, dont les uns avoient mérité *la corde*, les autres *le Bannissement*; le Souverain, pour obvier à ces desordres, veut que dans la Ville et Vicomté

de Paris aucun Chirurgien, soit homme, soit femme, n'ait le pouvoir, qu'il appelle dans la suite LICENTIA, de faire aucun acte de Chirurgie, sans avoir été au préalable examiné & approuvé par des Maîtres Chirurgiens — Jurés appellés ou convoqués à cet effet par MAITRE JEAN PITARD, Chirurgien de S.M. et du Chatelet de Paris, ou ses successeurs.” *

CHARLES PETERS

Was remarkable for his skill in curing a disorder prevalent in the reign of the licentious Charles II. Taking advantage of the dissoluteness of the times, he advertised a preventive pill, which, inspiring a delusive presumption, increased the number of his patients. It was an age of nostrums and specifics, from the

* *Translation.* The sovereign, apprised of the robberies committed in the profession of Surgery, disgraced by a mob of plebeians qualified for murderers, thieves, coiners, alchymists, and rogues, wills, in order to do away with these disorders, that in the town and county of Paris, no surgeon, either man or woman, is authorised to do any Surgical act without, in the first instance, having been duly examined and approved of by Master Surgeons, sworn, called, or convoked for that purpose, by Master John Pitard, Surgeon to his Majesty, and of the Chatelet of Paris, or his successors.

king to the cottager, and he acquired, in consequence, an ample fortune.

DR. WILLIAM CULLEN.

Cullen was long an obscure medical practitioner, in a country village in Scotland, where he could neither acquire fame nor riches; but it happened that, while he resided there, Archibald, Duke of Argyle, visited a gentleman in the neighbourhood. The duke dabbled in chemistry, and, indeed, had a more than ordinary knowledge of the subject: but, while on this visit, was much at a loss for want of a small chemical apparatus. His host, recollecting Mr. Cullen, invited him to dine, and introduced him to the duke as a person likely to supply his wants. An introduction to one of his grace's great political influence could not but be favourable. A successful cure he afterwards performed on the Duke of Hamilton, completed his character. His first step, in 1746, was to the chemical chair in the University of Glasgow.

It has been said, that no profession affords so many opportunities of displaying the virtues of benevolence as the medical. Of these opportunities no man, perhaps, ever availed himself oftener, or with a better grace. He never took fees of the clergy; who, in Scotland, can ill

afford the pecuniary penalties of disease; the students were equally the objects of his consideration. Dr. Anderson, of Edinburgh, gives us a pleasant anecdote of the advantage once derived from Dr. Cullen's charitable disposition.

A medical student, who attended a course of lectures given by one of the medical professors, but who never had attended Cullen's class, happened to be seized with the small-pox. At the beginning of the disorder he was sick and very uneasy, and naturally sent for his own professor, as a physician. The disease soon terminated favourably, and all danger had abated, when the young man surprised his friends by calling in the assistance of Dr. Cullen, for which he said he had reasons, which they would approve of when they knew them. When quite recovered, he watched an opportunity when both the physicians were present, thanked Dr. Cullen for his attention, and offered him money. This the doctor (as the young wag foresaw) positively refused. He then offered it to the other, (his own professor) who for shame could not accept it; although it was never known that he had refused a fee when offered. The reason of his calling in Dr. Cullen was very apparent.

SIR HANS SLOANE, BART.

This eminent physician and naturalist, the founder of the British Museum, was a native of Ireland, (born in the year 1660). The early bent of his genius discovered itself towards the knowledge of nature, which was encouraged by a proper education. He chose physic for his profession; and, in order to attain a perfect knowledge of its several branches, he repaired to London. Here he attended all the public lectures of anatomy, botany, and chemistry. His turn for natural history introduced him to the acquaintance of Boyle and Ray, whose friendship he carefully cultivated, by communicating to them every curious or useful observation he made. Having spent four years in London he went to Paris, and there attended the hospitals, heard the lectures of Tournefort the botanist, of Du Verney the anatomist, and other eminent masters. Having obtained letters of recommendation from Tournefort, he went to Montpellier, and was introduced by M. Chirac, then chancellor and professor of that university, to all the learned men of the province, but particularly to Mr. Magnol, who introduced him to an acquaintance with the spontaneous productions of nature in that happy climate, and taught him to class them in their proper order.

He spent a whole year in collecting plants in this place, and travelled through Languedoc with the same view. In 1684 he returned to London, with an intent to settle and follow his profession.

He immediately transmitted to Mr. Ray a great variety of plants and seeds, which Ray has described, with proper acknowledgments, in his “*Historia Plantarum*.” About this time he became acquainted with Sydenham, who took him into his house, and recommended him in the warmest manner to practice; and shortly he was chosen a fellow of the Royal Society, and of the College of Physicians. But a prospect of making new discoveries, in natural productions, induced him to take a voyage to Jamaica, as physician to Christopher, Duke of Albemarle, then governor of that island. His whole stay at Jamaica was scarcely fifteen months, yet he brought together such a variety of plants as greatly surprised Mr. Ray, not thinking there had been so many to be found in both the Indies. He now applied himself closely to his profession, and became so eminent that he was chosen physician to Christ’s Hospital, on the first vacancy. The money which he received from his appointment he applied to the relief of poor objects in the hospital, not being willing to enrich himself by the gains he

made there. He was chosen secretary to the Royal Society in 1693, and immediately revived the publication of the "Philosophical Transactions," which had been omitted for some time; he continued to be editor of them till 1712, and the volumes which were published in this period contain many pieces written by himself. As he had from his earliest days a strong appetite for natural knowledge, he had made a great collection of rarities, and enriched his cabinet with every thing that was curious in art or nature. But this received a great augmentation by a bequest of William Courten, esq. a gentleman who had employed all his time, and the greatest part of his fortune, in collecting curiosities. The sense which the public entertained of his merit is evidently shewn by the following honours conferred upon him: he was created a baronet by George I.; chosen a foreign member of the Royal Academy at Paris; president of the Royal College of Physicians; and president of the Royal Society, on the death of Sir Isaac Newton.

After a short illness of three days, he died the 11th of January, 1752, in his ninety-first year.

JOHN PARTRIDGE,

A physician and astrologer of the seventeenth century, like many others of his day, as well as at the present time, thought it no crime to take advantage of the weakness of mankind, and to procure wealth and reverence at the expense of folly. That he was a doctor, and a royal doctor, may be learned from his epitaph.

Johannes Patridge, Astrologus,
et Medicina Doctor;

Natus est apud, East Sheen,
in Comitatu Surry,
18 die Januarii, anno 1644,
et Mortuus est Londini
24 die Julie, anno 1715.

Medicinam Fecit duobus Regibus
Unique Reginæ; Carlo Scilicet secundo,
Willielmo Tertio, Reginæque Mariæ.
Creatus Medicinæ Doctor,
Lugduni Batavorum.

This exalted character, when he had learned to read, and a “little to write,” was bound apprentice to a shoemaker, an occupation which he followed in Covent Garden so late as the year 1680, though two years afterwards, 1682, in his translation of “Mynsicht’s Treasury of Physic,” he is styled Physician to his Majesty.

The works of Partridge were chiefly astrological, and would have passed into oblivion had not their author fallen under the lash of a celebrated wit, which will make the ridiculous

part of his character remembered, when the rest of his personal history shall be forgotten. An almanac bears his name even to this day.

CHEMISTRY.

From the time of Boerhaave to the downfall of the boasted principles of Becher and Stahl, numerous are the authors who have improved this science. Among the Germans are Newmann, Polt, Cramer, Spielman, De Born, Plenck, Scheele, and Gren. In Holland, Ingenhouz and Van Mons. In France, Geoffrys, Remour, Du Hamel, Hellot, Roulle, Macquer, Baume, Lavoisier, Berthollet, Fourcroy, Sage, De Morveau. In Italy, Scopoli, Fontana; and, in this country, Hales, Lewis, Priestly, Black, Higgins, Beddoes, Pearson, Cavendish, Davy, Aikins, Thompson, Wollaston, Cooper, Brande, Marcet, and Pettys.

The object of chemistry is to ascertain the nature and properties of bodies, or to explain the intimate action of all natural substances on each other. The means by which these methods are principally acquired, are analysis and synthesis; the former signifying the separation or decomposition of the constituent parts of a compound body—the latter, its formation or composition by the artificial reunion of its constituent principles.

Every useful art being dependant on chemical

science, its cultivation cannot be too strongly enforced, as the key of true knowledge and correct information. It is, indeed, that science which, of all others, tends to expand the mind. Its subjects include the whole creation; and whatever contributes to the utility or ornament of life, falls within the scope of its investigation. To the contemplative mind, it affords a field for endless reflection and varied enquiry. It lifts the mind to that *source* whence all creation springs; and, in tracing the infinite changes it is capable of producing as matter, it naturally leads to an attempt to trace the cause from which such changes are produced, and by which they are modified. Thus the existence of a superior power becomes warmly impressed upon the individual engaged in its pursuit. Difficulties occur which the best-informed chemist cannot explain, and which he can alone retrace to an all-powerful and invisible hand, without whose interference he is bewildered in conjecture, and led into a maze of difficulties and perplexities. Every combination shews contrivance and design, and to the person possessing a knowledge of chemistry, appears evidently the work of pre-conceived arrangement, and not the effect of chance or uncertainty. Thus impressed, creation is viewed by him with an admiration superior to that of a casual observer. He discovers an over-

ruling providence, and “ sees through nature Nature’s God.” He traces in every part the wise and unseen hand of the Creator, enduing every atom with certain qualities peculiar and appropriated to itself, and these qualities capable of being altered, improved, and modified to the various uses and properties of life. But, when he descends into the particular branches into which the industry of man has divided this science, he finds his source of admiration still more complete. If he investigate the business of the manufacturer, he finds that this science is the very basis of his art; for it not only furnishes him with the articles with which he is to work, but it enables him to judge of their purity, to detect their adulterations, and to improve their quality. If, again, he enter into the province of the physician, how essential is this science to the principles and security of the healing art. A mixture of two articles which separately may be administered with safety, as, quicksilver and the muriatic acid, forms a powerful poison. Without, therefore, a knowledge of the effects of combinations, how dangerous a task does the physician undertake; and how apt is he, in his desire to remove disease, to do more injury to the human frame than the disease itself would produce. With chemistry his prescriptions may not only be

nugatory, but, by improper combinations, be made the instrument of pain and death. Even the most active medicines may be rendered inert by union with other substances; and, aware of this, the physician ignorant of chemistry seldom ventures to prescribe active chemical preparations, although the only remedies likely to prove beneficial. This is a subject which chemistry alone can teach and explain. Thus the most powerful mineral poisons, by the addition of substances termed sulphurets, are decomposed, and rendered innoxious; and vegetable poisons are much counteracted in their effects, by the power of acids. But the benefit of this science to the physician is not limited to a knowledge of the powers of remedies; it presents to him a subject still more important, the investigation of the structure and animating principle of the human body, which he finds subject to the same chemical laws with the organization of the creation. By investigating its economy he finds that the machine resembles a laboratory, in which is constantly going, in a variety of processes, some simple, others complicated, but all clearly dependant on chemical attraction. But the view which chemistry affords of the structure of animals ought not to be confined to professional admiration and study. It ought to form a subject for the research of every individual who

possesses the power of thought and reflection, who considers the purpose for which he is created, for “Dust we are, and to dust we must return,” is the language of sacred writ, and this language cannot be properly understood without a knowledge of chemistry, shewing the products into which animal matter is reducible, and that earth constitutes the great basis of the whole.

GAMES ADAPTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

The game of *Chess* was played at the siege of Troy, by Podalirius and Machaon, with Palamedes, the inventor of it; still there are other games which bear a closer analogy to the *ars Medendi*.

Draughts, from their extensive utility, need not be mentioned; they are certainly among the *prima elementa* of the general practitioner.

Push-pin manifestly tends to increase the *tactus eruditus*.—*Dominoes* inculcate the necessity of the *juxta-position* of similar parts by due apposition, and give warning of the evil consequences of a solution of continuity. They form an evidently sanative game. *Nine-Pins* and *bowls*, from their very form, like two-ounce phials and pills, are doubtless intended to do honour to medicine.

The various games of *cards* seem, however, particularly designed for the use of medical practitioners, and may be called the microsm of medicine. In *Whist*, there is the necessity of *cutting*, which involves much chirurgical knowledge; and *shuffling*, which is useful in all the branches of the profession. The good player will rely more on *tricks* than on *honours*. The propriety of never omitting to call, is inculcated on the physician, while the maxim of returning your partner's lead, adumbrates that good understanding between the *Doctor* and the *Apothecary*, which may be termed the *holy alliance of London practice*. Some practitioners have played well at *Matrimony*. *Pope Joan* conveys a curious historical fact, and may thus increase the general knowledge of the student.

There is a game mentioned by Rabelais, under the name of *Flux*, with which we are not acquainted, but which, no doubt, if investigated, would tend to throw light on cathartics. The same astute physician mentions the game of *Pille*; but the word with him, (in French) is not taken in the sense of *pilula*, but in the imperative of the verb *piller*, to *rob*, *strip*, or *pillage*. In English it might be called *bill*, and refers to the mode of making a charge.

Blind Hookey, the *cæca rapacitas* of the Latins, is a game venerable for its antiquity, and

truly medical. *Put the fool to bed*, is a game little used ; but it conveys an useful instruction as to the mode of dealing with a patient.

RABELAIS,

The son of an apothecary, a man of uncommon capacity, an adept in all branches of knowledge and literature ; but his wit made him sometimes transcend the bounds which ought to restrain literary men. He endured persecution a long time ; and having quitted the Franciscans, he joined the Benedictine Friars ; but his mercurial temper prevailing, he left them also, shook off the habit of a secular priest, and rambled about till he took the degree of doctor of physic. He gave lectures, and wrote some medical annotations on Hippocrates and Galen, but his chief work is the celebrated “*Romance of Gangantua and Pantagruel*,” which has been considered by some as the history of his own time, under an ingenious fiction, and with borrowed names.

At the end of this satire is the “*Crème Philosophique des Questions Encyclopediques*,” containing ironical problems in natural philosophy, of one of which the following is a free translation.

“ Whether the hybernal frigidity of the Anti-podes, passing in an orthogonal line through

the homogeneous solidity of the centre, might warm the superficial convexity of our heels by a soft antiperistasis?"

DENTIST.

A tooth-drawer, who pretended to unimpeachable veracity, formerly exercised his art at Rouen, in France. He spoke loftily and boastingly of his dexterity and his prowess: he loved his trade to distraction, and regarded the teeth that he had drawn as so many squadrons overthrown, and as trophies erected to his glory. He had commenced by distributing affected hand-bills, in which he asserted, with as much truth as any of the fraternity, that he drew all teeth without pain, as well great as small. His glory so brilliant, but so fragile, became wrecked against an obstinate stump. The story is thus: a footman came to the house of our artist, to complain of a tooth which gave him great pain, and especially when he eat. To examine it, to offer his services, to fail to draw the tooth a first, a second, and even a third time, was the work of a moment. The footman, who bled very profusely, was angry, and expressed himself in energetic terms. The operator, full of shame, blamed first his instruments, and then the irritability of his patient. The assistants shrugged up their shoulders and smiled: yet

the dentist, who perceived this smile, said, “ You smile, gentlemen; ah well! learn that, after me, there is not in France a dentist capable of drawing this stump; I'll bet immediately —” “ Softly, Sir,” replied one of the assistants, “ don't bet; for if M. la Fleur will permit me, I will draw this unfortunate stump in less than two minutes.” No sooner said than done; and with a twist of the hand, as light as quick, the tooth came from the mouth with the instrument. The sight of the bloody stump, the evil aspects of the spectators, the joy of La Fleur, petrified the poor Dentist; but he did not lose his assurance. “ I see, Sir, that you are of the trade,” said he to the new operator; “ but the devil d—n me if ever you could have drawn this tooth before I loosened it.” The Student in Surgery (for it was one), nettled by this vapouring, replied, “ Sit down there yourself; and if I do not draw all your teeth, one after the other, without a single failure, I consent —” “ It is not necessary,” answered the Dentist; “ I see you are a clever man, and the only one I have met with here fit to hold a head for me.”

WILLIAM SALMON.

He was a pretender to physic, which he practised with success, as far as making money was concerned. He was also a dealer in nostrums,

and an author—astrology, alchimy, chiromancy, the Grand Elixir, “Septarium, or the Druggist’s Shop opened,” and such subjects, being most learnedly treated of by him in bulky volumes, some of which went through ten editions.

BARON HALLER’S SYSTEM OF PHYSIOLOGY.

In this work all the parts of the human body are described; we have there an opportunity of examining the opinions of celebrated authors, who attribute different uses to the same parts. M. de Haller did not always decide between these opinions; sometimes he proved that they ought all to be rejected. Nothing of importance that had been previously published escaped his observation, and he almost uniformly added remarks of his own, to the intelligence he had obtained from books.

We shall not enter into the immense detail of errors which Haller has refuted; of new facts which he has added; of the ingenious and deep views which he has opened; of the doubts he has cleared up, or of the theories he has perfected or reformed; this would be to copy the whole of his work. We shall confine ourselves chiefly to those subjects on which he has drawn every thing from his own proper fountain, viz. generation, the formation of the bones, and irritability.

His numerous experiments, which have generation for their object, were made on birds. The facility of examining their eggs, at almost all hours of their incubation, presented him with advantages which he could not have found had he made his inquiries on any other kind of animals.

He traced the formation of the chicken from the instant in which the first change in the egg is perceived, and the vital specks begin to dilate, to that when the little animal quits the shell in which it was formed. He saw, if we may use the expression, the organs successively spring up before his eyes, acquire life and motion; saw them transformed and perfected; assume the several dispositions allotted to them in the animal; and beheld the arteries and veins unfold themselves. The vessels of the growing chicken are confused, and form a continuity with those of the yolk of the egg; and as these vessels of the yolk are observable in eggs which are unimpregnated, M. de Haller thought himself warranted to conclude that the chicken existed ready-formed in the egg, previous to its impregnation. He was equally assured that the foetus is also wholly formed in the females of oviparous animals; and he regarded this observation as a conclusive proof in favour of the system, of the successive develop-

ment of germs. He, however, perhaps, considered it as a mere probability; and would not have divested himself of that wisdom which rendered him inaccessible to the spirit of system, if he had not been inspired with a secret propensity to this opinion, by reasons of a different kind.

He apprehended that the production of an animal, by means purely mechanical, would destroy one of the proofs of the doctrine of providence. But is it not sufficient for those who search in nature for proofs of this doctrine, that the phenomena are regulated by certain laws, whatever these laws may be? Is not the crystallization of a salt, which constantly assumes the same form, a phenomenon as admirable as that of the generation of animals? In short, the laws which act upon the matter, being equally constant, and the phenomena resulting from them uniformly offering the same regularity, whatever system we employ to explain them, is it not in the wisdom and perfection which the whole of these phenomena announce, and not in the nature of the powers they produce, that we ought to look for proofs of the existence of a superior being?

It may appear more singular, that M. de Haller should believe religion or morality to be

interested in the opinions of philosophers, concerning the formation of organized beings, as he had attacked, in a dissertation on monsters, the identical metaphysical reasonings, which he has since employed in favour of the developement of germs; and he himself had proved, as we shall presently relate, that the repose of a philosopher may be disturbed by these trivial charges, which are often too wantonly made and easily admitted.

In the experiments on ossification, M. de Haller traces the progress of the growth and solidity of the bones in oviparous animals. He then examines the formation of a callus in the bones of adult animals. He thought he had discovered, in his experiments, that the bones are at first a jelly, of thin consistence, but organized and formed of vessels, originally imperceptible to the sight, as being transparent and filled with a colourless liquid. This jelly afterwards assumes a more solid form, the vessels become visible, and it at last ossifies, by the blood of the arteries, which pass through, depositing in it an earthy matter. According to his opinion, the periosteum contributes nothing to ossification, because it has a different organization from that of the bones; because some bones have no periosteum, and this mem-

brane is covered by callusses or osseous productions; and, lastly, because in a foetus the bones, at the time they become solid, have no adhesion to the periosteum.

These opinions of Haller differ from those of Du Hamel, who explains the formation of the bones by supposing a successive ossification of the membranes of the periosteum. Indeed, some of M. de Haller's experiments would appear difficult of explanation, if we were to adopt the theory of M. Du Hamel. Nor is it less difficult to account, on Haller's system, for the formation of bony laminæ, and especially for the alternate red and white strata which are observed in the bones of animals, fed sometimes with their common food, and sometimes with the same food mixed with madder; physiologists are still divided between these two opinions.

By irritability, M. de Haller means, that property, which certain parts of living bodies possess, of contracting when wounded, or even when touched, independently of the will of the animal that is the subject of experiment, and without its feeling any pain. A property of which plants seem also to partake, and which, being distinct from sensibility, does not depend on the same organs. He endeavours to prove that irritability resides exclusively in the mus-

cular fibres, and sensibility in the nerves: he demonstrates that parts destitute of muscles are not irritable, and those that are without nerves are not sensible; that if the nerves be divided, the sensibility of the part will be lost, while its irritability will remain. The nerve, when separated from the brain, ceases to contract; it only preserves an appearance of motion, because it may serve as a foreign body to excite irritability in the muscle to which it belongs. On the contrary, a muscle, though separated from the living body, still retains signs of irritability; but the power of it is diminished, and ceases in a very short time. He cautions against confounding irritability with elasticity, which is a property purely mechanical, and teaches to distinguish the motions which irritability produces, from those merely chemical changes which the application of caustics induces in all the soft parts or organized bodies.

GEORGE SKENE, M. D.

This respectable physician died in 1807. He was a man of strong mind, deep research, and sound learning; possessing genuine humour, and a poignancy of wit that was wont to "set the table in a roar;" qualities when combined in one person, and are tempered with judgment,

form excellent qualifications for a successful practitioner.

INSENSIBLE PERSPIRATION.

Sanctorius, in his experiments, found that the human frame lost about five pounds weight, which he could account for only by supposing that it passed off by the skin and lungs; and as it passed off insensibly, he called it “insensible perspiration;” but as he knew nothing of cutaneous absorption, his calculations are evidently imperfect. When the circulation was observed, and not till then, by Harvey; and when Ruysch, a Dutch physician, had injected the vessels of the skin, the road of the perspirable matter was demonstrated, viz. that the vessels secreting the perspirable matter open on the skin and on the surface of the lungs. These vessels, like all others, have the power of contracting and dilating, and have their action, consequently the circulation of their fluids, increased and diminished by many causes. They have the principle of irritability, and are subject to the same laws;—thus external applications, as caloric and friction increase their power, abstraction of caloric contracts them.

From the time of Sanctorius, colds, coughs, fevers, and other diseases, have, by many,

been attributed to the suppression of perspiration, although there was no direct experiment to prove it. That this may sometimes act as a cause, there can be little doubt, but not so often as has been imagined; for, sometimes, we see people perspiring a great deal; at other times not at all, and without any bad effect. A man enjoys as good health in winter as in summer, in cold as in hot countries; and, besides that, a perspiration is carried on by the lungs; nature has also taken care to guard against obstructed perspiration, by making the urine and sweat to be vicarious secretions, that is, when the one is increased the other is diminished, and *vice versa*. The matter of perspiration, nevertheless, appears to be perfectly useless to the human frame, and perhaps contains materials that might be hurtful if retained; hence, when obstructed, it may produce some complaints and aggravate others; but many of the dangers attributed to retained perspiration, arise from mere torpor of the skin, and the effect here is taken for the cause.

Sir Richard Phillips considers the insensible perspiration as a *necessary* consequence of the fixation of gas in respiration, and as the means of dispersing the atomic momenta created by such fixation of the moving atoms of atmosphe-

ric gas. 'The one *counterbalances* the other, and, therefore, if the atomic radiation or perspiration were stopt, fever would be the consequence. At the same time, the constant radiation of atoms renders food and new assimilations necessary.'

PHYSICIANS OF SPAIN.

It is generally believed in England, that the physicians of Spain are not so respectable as those of this country, or of France. That they are not so wealthy as the former, nor as consequential as the latter, may be allowed; but as a profession, protected as they are, by law, to support their rank, and exclude ignorant pretenders, they are not inferior to their European brethren. In 1820, the fee of a Spanish physician was three reals (about nine-pence). The fact is this:—the physicians in Spain are upon an establishment somewhat like our clergy; they possess livings of different gradations, from one to five-hundred a year. Each, on being approved of by the examiners, is, according to his interest and talent, appointed to a certain village or town. He is obliged to visit all the sick of his district, and cannot demand a greater fee than three reals; but this he is allowed. If, however, his fame should become extended, and

he is sent for to any part out of his district, his fees are unlimited, and so high as thirty guineas have been known to be given. By this wise regulation of the Spanish government the poor are not driven to quacks and hospitals, but receive every necessary attention from their proper officer of health, at little expence, and the physicians are supported in their proper rank.

MEDICAL ATTENDANT.

“ Physicians, I well know,” says Dr. Gregory, “ think thus of one another, and I hope I may, without offence, suppose that lawyers and surgeons do so too. If a lawyer had an important and nice cause of his own in court, I presume he would make some selection among his professional brethren, to whom he entrusted the conduct and arguing of it. And if all the surgeons of Edinburgh had occasion—not to cut, which is a trifle—but to be cut for the stone, which is a very serious matter, I have no doubt but they would all like to make some kind of choice or selection of their operator. They all know well the nicety and danger of the operation in many respects: for example, that, in thrusting in a curious kind of knife, like a pointed scoop, with a very sharp cutting edge, if the operator misses

the proper direction by half a quarter of an inch, instead of making an opening into the bladder, through which the stone may be extracted; he will perforate the nearest bowel, thereby inflicting a mortal wound. They all know that this misfortune has often happened in unskilful hands; and to make the danger of that accident, and of several others, to be feared in the performing of the operation, as little, and the probability of complete success in it as great as possible, they all would choose, each for himself, as his operator, that one of their professional brethren whom each individually thought the most skilful and best. It is possible, that all the votes of the most competent; and, in the case stated, the most candid judges, might not be united in favour of one or even two of their own number. But it is certain that the votes would not be equally divided among them all. Four, or perhaps ten of them, might have a great number of votes, in proportion to the number of voters: these four or ten we shall call the best, in the estimation of their own professional brethren. Fifteen, or twenty, or five and twenty perhaps, might have each a few votes; these we shall call the middling. Four, or perhaps ten of the whole number, might probably have very few or no votes; these we shall call the worst.

PARACELSIUS.

After Paracelsus had been instructed in the elements of his art, by his father, an industrious apothecary, and had made considerable progress in such chemical knowledge as the age afforded, he visited the principal cities and universities of Europe. Acquirement of knowledge being the great object of his journey, he consulted, without scruple, physicians, barbers, apothecaries, conjurors, and old women, eagerly adopting from every quarter whatever he thought useful in practice. In the course of his travels he was taught, or fancied he was taught, the secret of the philosopher's stone. The ridiculous pursuit of the art of turning all to gold has been nevertheless productive of golden advantages to mankind; at an æra when nothing but the strong stimulus either of avarice or fanaticism was able to rouse mankind to action, this infatuation paved the way to chemical experiment, to which we are indebted for discoveries and improvements, in various arts, which tend to the preservation, the comfort, and pleasure of human life.

Paracelsus, impelled by curiosity, descended the mines, traversed the immense space of the Russian empire, was taken prisoner by the Tartars, and afterwards stood indebted for life and liberty to his medical skill. After receiving

many valuable presents from the Cham, he accompanied the son of that prince to Constantinople; and, returning to Europe, was so fortunate as to restore Frobenius, a famous painter, to health. This circumstance introduced him to the acquaintance of Erasmus, and he was appointed professor of physic at Bayle, with a handsome salary ; but, being unable to resist his fondness for wandering, he visited Italy, and, on his return to Germany, died at Salzburgh, in the 48th year of his age.

AMBROSE PARE.

During the attachment of Charles IX., the bigotted and brutal son of Henry II. of France, to his surgeon Ambrose Paré, we have a singular instance of medical credit averting that miserable fate, at the massacre of St. Bartholomew, which no other claims of public or private merit, nor any connection of friendship, interest, or blood, were able to prevent. Charles shut him up in his own room, saying, “ It is not right for a man so useful to the world to perish in such a manner.”

Richard Wiseman, sergeant-surgeon to Charles II., has been styled the Ambrose Paré of the English. The same spirit of observation, the same simplicity, and the same candour, prevails in both of them ; and the surgical works of

each were better than any that had preceded them.

CHARLES PATIN.

Voltaire says his works “are read by men of learning, as his father’s letters are by men of leisure.”

He used to say, for the credit of his art, that it had enabled him to live in perfect health till he was eighty-two years of age; that it had procured him a fortune of twenty thousand pounds; and that it had acquired him the esteem of many respectable and enlightened persons.

THE CONSCIENTIOUS PHYSICIAN.

M. G**** a physician of reputation, but unfortunate in his practice, fell ill, and wished, notwithstanding the entreaties of his friends to the contrary, to prescribe for himself, from the apprehension that the same ill-luck, which attended his patients, might befall himself: he, however, persisted, treated himself, and died. The following epitaph was made on the occasion:

Faithful to that law divine,
Which bids us never draw a line
Between ourselves and brothers;
Always in this course he run,
As now unto himself he’s done,
The same did he to others.

ORIGIN OF THE BARBER'S POLE.

The barber-surgeons had a bye-law, by which they levied ten pounds on any person who should dissect a body out of their hall, without leave. The separation did away this and other impediments to the improvement of surgery in England, which had previously been chiefly cultivated in France. The barber-surgeon, in those days, was known by his POLE, the reason of which was sought for by a querist in the "British Apollo," fol. Lond. 1708, No. 3.

I'd know why he that selleth ale
 Hangs out a chequer'd part per pale;
 And why a Barber at port-hole
 Puts forth a party-coloured pole?

ANSWER.

In ancient Rome, when men lov'd fighting,
 And wounds and scars took much delight in,
 Man-menders then had noble pay,
 Which we call Surgeons to this day;
 'Twas order'd that a huge long pole,
 With basin deck'd, shou'd grace the hole,
 To guide the wounded, who unlopt
 Could walk, on stumps the other hopt:—
 But, when they ended all their wars,
 And men grew out of love with scars,
 Their trade decaying, to keep swimming,
 They join'd the other trade of trimming;
 And to their Poles to publish either,
 Thus twisted both their trades together.

In Brand's "History of Newcastle," we find, that there was a branch of the fraternity in that place, as, at a meeting in the year 1742, of the Barber-chirurgeons, it was ordered, that they should not shave on a Sunday, and "that no brother should shave John Robinson till he pays what he owes Robert Shafto."

Speaking of the "gross ignorance of the barbers," a facetious author says, "This puts me in mind of a barber, who, after he had cupped me (as the physicians had prescribed) to turn away a catarrh, asked me 'if I would be *sacrificed*?'"—"Sacrificed?" said I, "did the physician tell you any such thing?"—"No, (quoth he) but I have sacrificed many, who have been the better for it." Then, musing a little with myself, I told him, "Surely, sir, you mistake yourself, you mean *scarified*."—"O, sir, by your favour (quoth he) I have ever heard it called sacrificing; and, as for scarifying, I never heard of it before." In a word, I could by no means persuade him but that it was the barber's office to *sacrifice* men. Since which time, I never saw any man in a barber's hands, but the *sacrificing*-barber came into my head."

LAW AND PHYSIC; AN EASTERN APOLOGUE.

A lawgiver, in an oriental country, perceiving evident marks of rapid declension, was anx-

ious to restore the state to its pristine splendour. With this view he enacted a multiplicity of laws. In the mean time, he was taken ill. A physician was sent for, who prescribed a variety of remedies at once, "Why such a great quantity?" asked the sick minister.—"The more speedily to restore your health," was the reply;—"But, among such a variety of remedies, some may counteract the effect of the others?"—"True," observed the physician, "I beg pardon; I believe I am wrong; but I was desirous to treat your distemper as you have treated the disorders of the state."

THE UNIVERSAL REMEDY.

"Take so much rhubarb," learned Galen says,
"Take so much cassia, so much aloes,
So much of t'other, and of such and such,"
Give me this recipe—*"take not too much."*

ARTIFICIAL PALATE.

(A MODERN INVENTION.)

The natural want, or the casual destruction, of that delicate organ the human palate, is attended with the most unpleasant of all effects—the loss of voice; and, of the many substitutes which we have, very few have those advantages that could be wished. The common metallic palate seldom fits well, and always gives

pain; while those of gum caoutchouc and other elastic substances are offensive, and also, by pressing asunder the parts, increase the deficiency. The removal of them all for the purpose of cleaning, is a work of some trouble. In 1820, a silver palate was constructed in London, by a very ingenious dentist, which obviates many of the objections to the old construction. It fits the parts with the utmost nicety, and, as it does not press upon the edges of the deficiency, it allows the parts to contract, or, to a certain extent, even to be reproduced; while the wearer can take it out, clean it, and replace it, in two or three minutes. When it is to be removed or put in, the wings which fasten it to the upper side are made to collapse into a very small space; and, after it is put in its place, they are made to expand and embrace the edges of the bone, with any degree of tightness that may be necessary. The whole of the machinery (which is very neat,) is worked by a small button in the centre of the palate, so flat as to give no uneasiness to the tongue, and yet can be moved with the greatest ease. Besides the facility with which this palate can be removed and replaced, the great advantage of it consists in the accuracy with which it fits the parts. The inventor, being an expert worker in me-



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SIR SAMUEL GARTH, M.D.



tals, cuts and works the whole himself; and by this means was enabled to procure a perfect model, and also fit it precisely.

SIR SAMUEL GARTH,

A very able physician, rendered memorable by his poem, called, "The Dispensary." He was born in the county of York, and educated at Peter-house, in Cambridge, where he regularly took his degrees in physic. He practised in London, and was admitted a fellow of the College of Physicians, July 28th, 1692, and became one of their censors in 1702. Such was the violence of party at that period, that a wig conceived he could no more be cured by a tory, than a tory by a wig physician. The Esculapius of the former was Garth; of the latter Radcliffe; who being frightened to death, as it is said, by the threats of the tories, for not keeping Queen Anne alive, Garth remained without a rival; and, consequently, on the accession of George I., he was appointed physician in ordinary, and physician-general to his army; and the sword of the Hero of Blenheim was made use of in conferring the honour of knighthood upon him. The "Dispensary" introduced Garth to the Kit-cat club. Physicians are celebrated in our annals as wits, poets, and virtuosi: the names of Freind, Grew, Mead,

Garth, Akenside, Armstrong, Granger, and Goldsmith, must ever be remembered with respect. Garth, more celebrated for his abilities than his piety, lived an epicure, and died a latitudinarian. He said, when expiring, "I am glad of it, being weary of having my shoes pulled on and off." Pope, however, declared that he died in the communion of the church of Rome, and that, "his death was very heroical, and yet unaffected enough to have made a saint or a philosopher famous."

Garth was as universally liked as any private person of his day. He was mild and complaisant, though a zealous party-man, and kind, though a wit. Pope, who certainly did resemble him in these respects, always speaks of him with the most decided affection.

Well-natured Garth, inflam'd with early praise."

And, "If ever there was a good christian, without knowing himself to be one, Garth was the man!" He inscribed to him his second pastoral, rather unluckily, being the worst of the four. Lord Lansdowne, too, addressed some verses to him, when dangerously ill, in a high strain of compliment, which it is to be hoped were dictated only by the ardour of friendship.

Machæon sick! in ev'ry face we find
His danger is the danger of mankind;

Whose art protecting, nature would expire
But by a deluge or the general fire.

And as if this were not enough, mark the conclusion.

Sire of all arts, defend thy darling son,
Restore the man whose life's so much our own;
On whom, like Atlas, all the world's reclined,
And, by preserving Garth, preserve mankind.

"Well meant hyperboles," as Lord Orford observes, on another occasion, "upon a man who never used any."

DROPSY.

Speaking of dropsy, Horace says,

Crescit indulgens sibi dirus hydrops,
Nec sitim pellit, ni causa morbi
Fugent venas, et æquosus albo
Corpore languore.

The celebrated Heraclitus, who lived about five hundred years before Christ, being attacked by dropsy, resolved to consult the Physicians. He came to the city, and enquired of them, if they could convert rainy weather into dry? As the Physicians did not comprehend what he meant by this enigmatical question, he treated them as blockheads, and would condescend to no explanation. Of his own accord he went and buried himself in a dung-hill, persuaded that the great heat would evaporate

the water that incommodeed him. But the remedy proved worse than the disease, for in a very short time afterwards he died.

Among the various cures and singular remedies for the dropsy, collected in the history of the Academy of Sciences for 1690, M. du Hamel states, that he was acquainted with a person, resident at Mailly, who was greatly relieved of a dropsy, in consequence of wearing a girdle into which bile, well dried and finely powdered, was quilted. He adds, that two countrymen, considerably advanced in life, were cured of the same complaint, by remaining sometime in a baker's oven soon after the bread was drawn. Varikbillan, ninth caliph of the race of Abasides, was cured by a method nearly similar. His physician caused him to enter a lime-kiln soon after the lime was drawn forth, and, in the course of a few days, he was totally cured of his dropsy.

A Swiss soldier went into the Hospital of the Invalids in 1779, labouring under dropsy: he died the 30th of December, 1780, after M. Morand had tapped him 57 times, and drawn away 485 French pints of water, besides six more which escaped when the body was opened.

In a volume of the Philosophical Transactions for 1779, a case of dropsy, still more extraordinary, is mentioned; being that of a

young woman who died at 23 years of age. In the space of four years she submitted to the operation of the paracentesis 155 times, and lost 3720 pints of water.

The palace of the King of Sardinia, at Turin, contains an exquisite collection of pictures. One of the finest is by Gerard Dow, pupil of Rembrandt, which presents a dropsical woman consulting a physician, who is examining her urine in a glass vessel. It exhibits a *chef-d'œuvre* of art, combined with the truth of nature.

Dr. Monro, in his Treatise on Dropsy, makes mention of a certain officer who insisted on his soldiers drawing their garters extremely tight, in order to give their legs a handsome shape: this caprice produced very serious consequences. These tight ligatures sent many men to the hospital, afflicted with the dropsy, of whom several died. The same consequences have resulted from this absurd practice on other occasions:—the back-woodmen, as they are termed in America, often pass whole months in the open air in pursuit of game. The veterans accustomed to this kind of life are careful, when they lie down to sleep, to loosen all the ligatures of their clothes; but some of the younger, who despise such precau-

tions, are frequently affected with dropsical swelling of the limbs.

Louis the Fifteenth, soon after the battle of Fontenoy, complimented Marshal Saxe on the excellent state of his health, saying, that his warlike exertions, crowned by victory, had contributed to cure him of a dropsy with which he was afflicted. The Marshal de Noailles, who was present, observed, that "Marshal Saxe, was the first general whom victory had dis-inflated."

A SIMILE, BY DR. GARTH.

Like a pert skuller, one physician plies,
And all his art and all his skill he tries;
But two physicians, like a pair of oars,
Conduct you faster to the Stygian shores.

THE MEDICAL CHARACTER.

No person, it is hoped, thinks so meanly either of physic or surgery, as to suppose that less talents are requisite to practise them with credit and success than are necessary for the common conduct of life; but every person of sense and observation must have remarked how differently people profit by experience and observation.

Some men, of good sense and quick dis-

cernment, and active, vigorous minds, who attend accurately to what passes around them, are distinguished, even at an early period of life, for sagacity, prudence, decision, and quickness in conduct, and a thorough knowledge of the characters of men, and the management of business. They are accordingly respected in the world, and often consulted on nice and difficult occasions by those who are acquainted with them, and who wisely rely more on the judgment of such men than they would do on their own.

But such men are not the majority of mankind. An infinitely greater number are either so deficient in natural talents, or so culpably negligent in the use of them, that they appear to acquire no improvement by their experience of men and things. At fifty or sixty they are more dull than they were at twenty-five or thirty. They become as arrant drones in common life as any are in law, or physic, or surgery. No man of sense, who knows them, would think of consulting them, or relying on their judgment, in any business whatever, any more than he would think of consulting a lawyer when sick, or a physician when engaged in a law-suit.

A man of such a character can never deserve respect, or confidence, or employment, even in his own profession : and there are many such in law, in physic, in surgery, and in all the employments of life. (*Gregory.*)

PHILEMON HOLLAND

Was born in Essex, about the year 1551 : from his numerous translations he was called “the translator-general of the age.” He practised physic with considerable reputation in his neighbourhood; and, at length, though pretty late in life, he took a degree of doctor of physic, in the university of Cambridge. He brought up a large family of ten children with credit, was a benefactor to the poor, and so peaceable and inoffensive in his temper, that he was never engaged in a law-suit, either as plaintiff or defendant, though he met with some unjust treatment.

As a reward of his regularity and temperance, he reached his 84th year, in full possession of his faculties, and with his eye-sight so good, notwithstanding the great use he had made of it, that he never had any occasion to use spectacles. He died of old age, in his 85th year, February 9, 1636.

The following Epigram is recorded, which

he made in consequence of his having written a large folio with a single pen.*

With one sole pen I writ this book,
Made of a grey-goose quill;
A pen it was when it I took,
And a pen I leave it still.

On which Dr. Fuller observes, that “ he must have leaned very *lightly* on the nib thereof, though *weighty* enough in another sense.”

A quibbling epigram, to the following effect, which has been often retailed in jest-books, was made on his having translated Suetonius:—

Philemon with translations so does fill us,
He will not let Suetonius be *Tranquillus*.

The literary feats of Philemon were only exceeded by Andrew Toraqueau, who is said to have produced a book and a child every year, till there were twenty of each, or, as some say, thirty. This, with the circumstance of his being a water-drinker, was the occasion of the following humorous epitaph:—

“ Hic jacet, qui aquam bibendo viginti libros suscepit,
viginti liberos edidit. Si merum bibisset, totum orbem
implevisset.”

* Some other voluminous writers are said to have had the same whim, as John Bunyan and Matthew Henry.

Which is translated thus:—

Here lies a man who, drinking only water,
Wrote twenty books, with each had son or daughter;
Had he but used the juice of gen'rous vats,
The world would scarce have held his books and brats.

ACETATE OF MORPHINE.

The detection of this poison has been made the subject of experiment in France; and the result appears to be, that, by chemical process, sensible traces of this salt can be discerned in the viscera. We are indebted to M. Lassaigne for some details published in the first number of a new Medical Journal. Experiments were made upon animals with certain quantities of the salt; and, in general, vomiting took place shortly after its administration. The rejected fluid yielded, after evaporation, a yellowish extract, which smelt like broth made of animal matter, with a bitter and saltish taste, reddening tournesol paper. Boiling alcohol being added to this, separated an insoluble flocculent portion, consisting of mucous and gelatinous matter, and a portion soluble in alcohol remained, separable by evaporation. This alcoholic extract being re-dissolved in a small quantity of water, gave out yellowish flakes of a fatty substance; and the solution being slowly evaporated, deposited prismatic divergent crystals of

a yellowish colour and bitter taste, precipitated from water by ammonia in white flakes, yielding a decided vinegar smell on applying sulphuric acid, and colouring weak nitric acid yellow. This last effect appears to be the criterion of the presence of acetate of morphine.

Finding some difficulty in decolourising the fluid submitted to chemical process, recourse was had to subacetate of lead, which does not precipitate the pure salt, while it throws down all the colouring vegetable matters, as well as the immediate principles of animal substances. On adding a solution of this salt to an aqueous one of the alcoholic extract, the supernatant liquor will retain but a slight tint, holding the different alkaline salts not affected by the metal, along with the acetate of morphine, and a slight excess of the subacetate of lead, which is got rid of by a few bubbles of sulphuretted hydrogen gas.

Notwithstanding the circumstantial account given in this paper, we should like to see the investigation carried on in the pure analytical form, in which the case would come so much nearer one of real practice, as that those tests should be applied which one might suppose likely to be employed in a case of poisoning, where there is no knowledge of the precise article that has been taken, and where the

first step is to ascertain this. As far as M. Lassaigne's paper goes it is valuable; but, as it does not contain any account either of the symptoms or lesion produced by the poison, it is but a slender contribution to toxicology. He confines himself entirely to that part of the investigation in which he was himself concerned —viz. the chemical.

ANATOMY FIRST ENCOURAGED.

It is said, that the earliest law enacted in any country, for the promotion of anatomical knowledge, was one that passed in 1540. It allowed the United Companies of Barbers and Surgeons to have yearly the bodies of four criminals to dissect.—*Barrington's Statutes.*

WILLIAM BUTLER, M. D.

Was the most popular and celebrated practitioner of physic in his time. He was born 1535, and died 1617. He possessed a natural sagacity in judging of diseases; and is said to have been extremely eccentric and capricious in his manners, traits of character not unfrequently mimicked in the present day, and which, with the vulgar, pass for talent and extraordinary abilities. He is said to have been first taken notice of in his profession from the following incident:—“A clergyman, in Cam-

bridgeshire, by excessive application in composing a learned sermon, which he was to preach before the king at Newmarket, had brought himself to such a way that he could not sleep. His friends were advised to give him opium, which he took in so large a quantity, that it threw him into a profound lethargy. Dr. Butler was sent for from Cambridge; who, upon seeing and hearing his case, flew into a passion, and told his wife, that she was in danger of being hanged for killing her husband, and very abruptly left the room. As he was going through the yard, on his return home, he saw several cows, and asked her to whom they belonged? She said to her husband. "Will you," says the doctor, "give me one of these cows if I restore him to life?"—She replied, "with all my heart." He presently ordered a cow to be killed, and the patient to be put into the warm carcase, which in a short time recovered him.* But, it is rather supposed that it was not by such unnatural remedies as these that Butler acquired his reputation; but by chemical preparations, which he is said to have been the first to use in England.

Various other instances of his eccentricities

* MS. of Mr. Aubrey, in the Ashmolean Museum, quoted by Granger in his Bibliographical History.

are related. It was his custom to sit among the boys, at St. Mary's church, Cambridge; on one of these occasions he happened to be sent for to King James, at Newmarket, when he suddenly turned back, on the road, to go home, so that the messenger was forced to drive him *nolens volens* before him.

Fuller paints our humorist in the following glowing colours:—"Knowing himself to be the prince of physicians, he would be observed accordingly. Compliments would prevail nothing with him; entreaties but little; surly threatenings would do much; and a witty jeer do any thing. He was better pleased with presents than money; loved what was pretty rather than what was costly; and preferred rarities before riches. Neatness he neglected into slovenliness; and, accounting *cuffs* to be *manacles*, he may be said not to have made himself ready for some seven years together. He made his humoursomeness to become him; wherein some of his profession have rather aped than imitated him, who had *morositatem aquabilem*, and kept the tenor of the same surliness to all persons."

An instance either of the extreme credulity of the times, or of the singular practice of Butler, is quoted by Wood, in his account of Francis Tresham, Esq., who, as an author re-

lates, “ Being seen in the Tower, and Dr. W. Butler, the great physician of Cambridge, coming to visit him, as his fashion was, gave him a piece of very pure gold in his mouth ; and, upon taking out that gold, Butler said he was poisoned.” This test, in all probability, must have been founded on superstitious notions concerning the qualities of gold ; “ still, it is not impossible that a mercurial poison might affect the colour of gold put into the mouth.”

Of Butler’s extraordinary practice, Sir Theodore Mayerne relates the following instance. A person applied to him affected with a violent tooth-ache, when Butler told him that “ a hard knot must be split by a hard wedge ; and directed him to smoke, without intermission, till he had consumed an ounce of the herb.” The man being an habitual smoker, whiffed twenty-five pipes before he left off.* The first occasioned extreme sickness, and then a flow of saliva, which, with gradual abatement of the pain, ran off to the quantity of about two quarts. The disorder was entirely cured, and did not, according to the same author, make its appearance again for seventeen years.

Butler was buried in St. Mary’s church-yard,

* The pipes must have been very small, or the ounce of tobacco very large, in those days.

Cambridge, where the following pompous, but elegant epitaph, was placed over him.

“ GULIELMUS BUTLERUS, Clorensis Aulæ quondam socius, medicorum omnium quos præsens ætas vidit facile princeps, hoc sub marmore secundum Christi adventum expectat; et monumentum hoc privata pietas statuit, quod debuit publica. Abi viator & ad tuos reversus, narra te vidisse locum in quo salus jacet.”

Butler was not an author, nor did he leave any manuscripts behind him. The following lines are, however, some proof of the estimation in which he was held as a physician :—

“ When now the fates 'gan wonder that thier thrids
Were so oft tied again, half cut i' th' mids,
And Charron wanting his us'd Naulu sware,
He now-a-days did want of many a fare.
They all conspire, and found, at last, that it
Was skillfull Butler, who men's lives could knit.
Almost untried, they killed him, and yet feared
That he from death by death would ghosts have reared.”

DISCOVERY OF LITHOTOMY.

The year 1724 shines in the records of chirurgery, as the epoch of a most important discovery—that of lithotomy. A Parisian archer, much tortured by the stone, and condemned to death for a capital offence, offered to submit to the experiment. It succeeded; and his example tempted others to venture the operation.

It does not, however, appear, that, during the fifteenth century, the knowledge of this great secret was extended beyond France.—*Monstrellet. Villaret.*

ENTHUSIASM OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

In their societies, the ardour of our students is excited to a degree of enthusiasm; “sometimes,” observes Dr. Gregory, “if I may take the liberty to say so, approaching very near to phrenzy. Their debates on controverted points have often been conducted with all the violence of party-spirit; within my memory, some of them fought with pistols about their medical systems; many more were eager to do the same. From what I have seen and heard, I can have no doubt that some of them would gladly have died martyrs to their medical faith. One zealot, out of stark love and kindness, resolving to convert me to that faith, came to my house on pretence of asking some questions about what I had taught in my lectures, and regaled me with an harangue, of which I understood not one-fiftieth part, but which lasted nearly an hour, and was delivered with such vehemence of gesture and passion, that he not only sweated profusely, but literally foamed at the mouth. If he had gone a very little further, or had repeated such exhibitions, it would

have been my duty to have got him confined as a lunatic.

" Two-and-thirty years ago, when Dr. Cullen's tub to amuse the whale was in the highest repute, and, of course, was the great subject of enthusiasm among the students, one gentleman concluded his thesis by declaring roundly, and I dare say very truly, that he would rather be in the wrong with Dr. Cullen, than in the right with other people. *Si erravero tamen, cum Newtono et Culleno, magna conantem errare, quam, cum vulgo hominum ignavè sapere, potius juvabit.*

" Twelve or fourteen years afterwards, but long before Dr. Cullen's death, when his tub had been knocked to pieces, and the whale had got another to play with, one of our students was so delighted with his new plaything, and held in such contempt the old one, which perhaps had amused his father, that he began his thesis, which I would not allow him to publish, by declaring flatly, that till the new doctrine was broached, which he was going to expound, there had been either no principles, or only false principles in physic *cum, præter unam doctrinam, nuper et nondum omnem in lucem editam, aut nullis aut falsis hactenus medicina principiis culta sit, &c.* with an asterisk of reference to *Brunonis Elementa*. This tub

has since that time drifted over to the continent; and, a few years ago, afforded infinite amusement and full employment to the great Kraken of Germany; perhaps it does so still.

“ But the most complete and ludicrous specimen of the importance of the debates, and of the orators in their own eyes, was a newspaper actually published in Edinburgh, containing an account of the debates in one of the medical societies, or, for aught I know, in all of them, for the edification of the public; somewhat in the style of the newspaper accounts of the debates in the two Houses of Parliament. If I remember right, I saw two or three numbers of that paper; I do not recollect the year of it, nor do I know how long it was continued; considering the nature of the debates, and the price of paper, print, and stamps, I presume not many months.

“ Yet, after all, that part of our medical education has done much more good than harm. The good of it is great, general, and permanent; the evil partial; and, though not small, generally transient.

Unus et alter

Forsitan hæc spernant juvenes, quibus, arte benigna,
E meliore luto fixit præcordia Titan.

“ Such young men, of superior sense, will from the first obtain all the good and none of

the evil which these institutions can produce. I have had the pleasure of seeing many instances of this kind. Others, according as they have more or less of the coxcomb in their composition, and according to the opportunities they have of improvement, by being actually engaged in the practice of their profession, may not be thoroughly cured of debating and haranguing for five, ten, or twenty years; some are absolutely incurable, and are as great orators, and as little physicians, at the age of sixty, as they were at four-and-twenty. This they generally find to their sorrow when it is too late. With a view to the one thing needful, I mean the guineas—the guineas, the prattle of a London apothecary, and some little knowledge of quadrille, will go farther than all the science and all the eloquence that ever were acquired in a medical society, or displayed in a medical consultation."

MASTER JOHN HALLE,

Chirurgeon of Maidstone, "a most famous Man."

Little of the history of this "most famous man," as Clowes calls him, is known, except from the picture prefixed to his book, dated 1564, ætat 35, from which it appears he must have been born in 1529. He wrote several works; among them is one entitled, "Histori-

cal Expostulation against the beastlye Abuses both of Chyrurgerie and Physicke in our Time," &c. This consists chiefly of accounts of certain medical and astrological impostors, who visited Maidstone, and the parts adjacent, while Halle resided there. From the specimens he gives of some of their bills, and the relation of their artifices to impose on the credulous vulgar, it appears that quackery has been ever the same thing from its earliest date to the present time, except that the character of conjurer is not now so often attached to it as formerly. The author subjoins to this *Expostulation* some sober advice to regular practitioners, much better than the poetry in which it is clothed; and concludes the whole with a set of prayers for the use of surgeons.—*Aikin.*

APOTHECARIES' CHARGES.

Many of the more voluminous writers in this department have paid attention to the fees and charges which medical practitioners are entitled to for their attendance on the sick; and this we hold to belong strictly to that branch of political medicine termed jurisprudence. In Great Britain, a pure practitioner of physic, and (we presume) of surgery, cannot recover at law any remuneration for his professional labours—the *fee* is entirely an honorary affair—

an *understood*, and not expressed matter, upon which no action can be raised. The only remedy of this nature is in the power of that practitioner who, along with his advice, attendance, and other assistance, furnishes the commercial part of the transaction—the drugs or implements that are *bona fide* matters of consumption or use. For the cost of these an action may lie; and the only way in which such articles can be rendered sources of lucrative gain, is by charging such as are required at several hundred per cent. above their market price, or by dispensing several hundred times more of them, or of something else, than is required—or by both.

. Many actions are brought on this ground to recover payment for medicines ; and rarely does an instance of such a nature occur without calling forth animadversions and exciting ridicule as to the quantum of medicinal preparations in the first instance, and the price forming a bill proverbial as to length. This system of practice, or rather of traffic, which is chiefly confined to the surgeon-apothecaries of London, is a great abuse of the noble art of healing, and little better than an imposition on the public. We wish well to the body of general practitioners, for we believe them to be a highly meritorious order ; but we also wish we could

see them requited for their important labours in some other way, and doubt whether it be not in their own power to effect this. Were a reform attained in this respect, we should not every now and then meet with cases like the following :—

Court of King's Bench, Thursday, February 19, 1824.

COLE v. DEVEREUX.

This was an action to recover payment for attending the defendant during a long illness, in the course of which the plaintiff had supplied the medicines. The first witness, a surgeon, who had served an apprenticeship to plaintiff, stated the charges to have been reasonable, and the treatment proper; and, on being cross-examined, stated, among other items, that boxes of pills, of various descriptions, had been charged 3s. 6d. each, the original cost of the materials being perhaps 6d. Other witnesses considered the charges reasonable; among whom was Mr. Bampfield, of Bedford-street, whose house had been kept by Apothecaries for the last century; and, on reverting to accounts as far back as 1758, and, comparing them with Mr. Cole's account, he saw no great difference between them. The custom of making presents to apothecaries, in addition to their bills, he was sorry to say, had ceased.

The counsel for the defendant considered, that his client had been charged exorbitantly; and that all the witnesses, who had spoken to the reasonableness of the bill, were interested in making it out to be so, because they were all apothecaries or surgeons, who justified their own charges when they sustained these. He animadverted upon the fact, that two boxes of pills were frequently

charged twice in the same day, which it was impossible the defendant could have swallowed.

The judge, in directing the jury, remarked, that if the defendant had not intended to pay the plaintiff, according to the usual system of the profession, he should have called for his account at an earlier period.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, and awarded him about two-thirds of the sum sought to be recovered.

Lond. Med. Repos.

A PHYSICIAN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

In 1559, the physician in ordinary of Elizabeth had a pension of 100*l. per annum*, besides diet, wine, wax, &c. The professorships, at both universities, continued at 40*l.* a-year, as in the days of Henry VIII.; but, as the money had been reformed by the queen, the amount was really much greater than it had been.

WILLIAM BUTTS,

Highly characterised for great experience, not only by the records of the College of Physicians, but, also, much extolled for his learning, took his doctor's degree at Cambridge, and, in 1519, petitioned to be incorporated *ad eundum* at Oxford. He was knighted by Henry VIII. and attended that monarch when he confirmed the Charter of the Surgeons of London, in 1512. He constitutes one of the principal figures in Holbein's celebrated picture at Barbers' Hall, where he is represented on his knees,

with seventeen other persons, all looking as if the charter was their death-warrant. One of them, Ayeliffe, had been sheriff of London, and a merchant of Blackwell hall; part of his story may be learned from the following epitaph:—

In surgery brought up in youth,
A knight here lieth dead;
A knight and eke a surgeon, such
As England sel'd' hath bred.

For which no sovereign gift of God,
Wherein he did excell,
King Henry VIII. call'd him to court,
Who lov'd him dearly well.

King Edward, for his service sake,
Bade him rise up a knight,
A name of praise, and ever since,
He's Sir John Ayeliffe, knight.

Stow, i. 67.

SURGERY.

Of the indisputable claims to respectability of this distinguished and most prominent branch of the profession of medicine, Dr. GREGORY presents us with the following remarks:

“ The high estimation of what are called the learned and liberal professions, and the very liberal payment of the services of those who have

attained eminence in them, depend very much on the general and just belief, that great, or even equal proficiency in them cannot be acquired by every man who may chose to undertake them; and that great eminence in them cannot be acquired without superior talents and persevering application and study.

" Of all the professions I ever heard of, surgery itself, as I think, affords the best example and illustration of that principle, and of the consequences proceeding from it. In this country, as in every other in Europe, or, I believe, in the world, surgery, for many ages, was not regarded a learned or liberal profession. The surgeons were, and in most parts of Europe to this day are, ignominiously classed with the common barbers. Within these two hundred years, they have, in this country, raised their profession to very high and just estimation; in which, I hope for their sake, and still more for the good of mankind, it shall ever continue. But this happy change was not produced, nor could it have been produced, by preserving an equality among the barber-surgeons, but quite the contrary; by the very superior skill and improvement of a few of their number, which made themselves and their profession respectable, and I hope will always do so. One of the first good effects of

it was the separation of the surgeons from the barbers. The common way of stating this (as a kind of joke on the surgeons) is, that the barbers insisted on separating from them. I can well conceive that this may be true, but on a principle different from the one insinuated. When a few men of merit, as surgeons, rose to eminence, and were esteemed as gentlemen of a liberal profession, their society and conversation could not be agreeable to the plain barbers ; but, if the surgeons should continue to establish among themselves a perfect equality, so that it should be indifferent to any person who needed the help of a surgeon which of them he sent for, and that a stranger, coming to Edinburgh to undergo a capital operation, might call for a surgeon, just as he would call for a barber if he wanted to be shaved, I dare say the barbers would soon be prevailed on to admit the surgeons into their company again."

MARK AKENSIDE, M. D.

This elegant scholar was, in 1760, physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, from which circumstance we may infer, that he did not confine his attention entirely to the "pleasures of the imagination," though he was far more

distinguished by his poetry than his physic. During his professional career, at the above hospital, he made some observations on scirrhous and cancer, in which cases he employed the *oxymuriate hydrargyri*, and *cicuta*, which was then coming into vogue, for the cure of strumous affections. We shall only glance at one or two cases. The first was a woman, thirty years of age, who came under Dr. Akenside's care in St. Thomas's Hospital, for a scirrhus swelling on the right side of her neck, which impeded deglutition, and caused great pain in her throat and mouth. The external surface of the tumour was also very painful, and from its stinging or lacerating pains, radiated over the temples and in different directions. Akenside gave her, twice a day, a quarter of a grain of the oxymuriate of mercury, in a spoonful of proof spirit, keeping the bowels open with some aperient waters. Under this treatment the patient found daily benefit, the pains gradually vanished—deglutition became easy—and the mouth free from soreness. On laying aside her medicines the disorder returned, and she was re-admitted to the hospital as bad as ever. A repetition of the same treatment restored her once more, and she was discharged cured.

Another case of scirrhouſe and cancerous tongue, cured by the ſame remedy, is related.*

Med. Chirurg. Rev.

MONSTROUS CRANIA.

Cuvier once read a memoir before the members of the Institute of France, on two heads of enormous size, which had become the ſource of a thouſand ridiculous ſtories. The firſt was found in Germany, and had long been regarded by various writers as having belonged to a race of giants, who had diſappeared from the earth after the deluge. SŒMMERING, after an attentive examination, was led to ſuppoſe the great developeſment of this head as arifing from diſeased action. Cuvier conſirmed this opinion, and maintained, besides, that not only was the head in queſtion one which belonged to an individual of the ordinary race, but that it muſt have been the head of a child, in which the enlargement took place prior to the developeſment of the teeth, as he diſcovered ſeveral of theſe, ſimilār to the milk teeth of infants. The ſecond wonder is a Parisian

* We do not presume to ſay that the above were caſes of ſcirrhouſe or cancer; although we have wiſhoned ſeveral instances where tumours of a very ſuspicioſe appearance were diſperſed by quietude, open bowels, low diet, and ſmall doſes of the *oxymurias hydrargyri*.

scull found in the environs of the town, and preserved in the museum of M. de Jussieu. This presents no very remarkable external deformity, and the size does not seem considerably augmented; but the weight is extraordinary, and the thickness one inch and a half: and it had acquired the hardness of ivory. This morbid organization of bone has been observed frequently in other parts. The thickness, hardness, and weight of the cranium generally depend upon an altered state of the brain.

THE ART OF PRESCRIBING.

Triller relates, that a physician of his acquaintance always had his pocket filled with recipes of all kinds. When consulted, he desired the patients to draw one forth by chance, assuring them that the lot they drew would infallibly answer their purpose.—A lady labouring under severe pain of the chest consulted this Esculapius; she put her hand in his pocket, and perceiving she had drawn a prescription for a clyster, she was seized with so violent a fit of laughing, that an abscess in her lungs broke; and from that moment she rapidly recovered.

The celebrated Dr. Hugh Smith had, at one time, his prescriptions engraved, leaving blanks for the quantities of the ingredients. But this being discovered by some of the patients com-

paring their prescriptions, very nearly deprived the Doctor of his business, great as his reputation then was.

At one time, the same gentleman took a physician into partnership. On a friend expressing his surprise at his selecting a man whose talents could be considered only as of the middling order; "I did not want a rival, but a drudge," was the reply.

JENNER AND THE FOREIGN POTENTATES.

When the foreign potentates arrived in this country in 1814, they all expressed a wish to see Dr. Jenner; he was first introduced to the Grand Duchess of Oldenburgh, when the conversation turned upon philosophical subjects, and her imperial highness astonished the doctor by the extent of her information. Dr. Jenner requested her imperial highness, when she wrote to her august mother, to have the goodness to say that he had a grateful remembrance of the kind attention which she shewed him. "*When I write?*" she replied, "*I will write this very evening!*"—At parting she said, "*Dr. Jenner, you must see the emperor my brother, who is expected here soon.*" Dr. Jenner bowed acquiescence and withdrew.

The emperor arrived, and the promised interview took place in the most gracious form.

The doctor was ushered into a room, which soon after his imperial majesty entered alone. He pronounced the words "Dr. Jenner!" (which was returned with a respectful bow), and then advanced and touched his right shoulder. Alexander shortly commenced a discourse upon the astonishing effects of vaccination in Russia; and Dr. Jenner had the pleasure of hearing him declare, that the vaccine had nearly subdued small-pox throughout that country. Dr. Jenner then told the emperor that he had the highest gratification at hearing such an important fact from his majesty himself. The Doctor next presented the monarch with a volume of his own works upon the subject; and added, "that in whatever country vaccination was conducted in a similar way to that which his majesty had commanded in the Russian empire, the small-pox must necessarily become extinct."

In a few days afterwards Count Orloff, with whom he had been long acquainted, from attendance on his countess, waited on Dr. Jenner, and asked him if a Russian order would be acceptable to him, should his majesty be graciously pleased to confer it. Dr. Jenner replied, that he thought this exclusively belonged to men of perfect independence. The count expressed his surprise at his not possessing a

pecuniary independence. Dr. Jenner answered; that he possessed a village fortune, though not what came under the general acceptation of the term independence.

By appointment Dr. Jenner waited on the King of Prussia. The doctor came rather late; and the king was in haste to go to church. His majesty, however, gave him a very polite reception, and apologized for being under the necessity of going to church; but made, as did the other sovereigns, a general acknowledgment of the obligations of the world to Dr. Jenner. His Prussian majesty was the first crowned head who submitted his own offspring to vaccination; and the Emperor of Austria followed his example. After the king was gone, the crown-prince, and many others of the illustrious foreigners, honoured Dr. Jenner with particular notice, and gave him a pressing invitation to Berlin.

Dr. Jenner's next presentation was to Blucher. He was very polite, and rather facetious. Before the general entered the room, a Turkish tobacco-pipe (a Turkey bowl with an alder stick) was brought in by a servant, upon a velvet cushion.

The next interview was with Platoff. To the astonishment of Dr. Jenner, who was accompanied by Dr. Hamel (a physician born on

the banks of the Don, and acquainted with the Cossack language), the count proved to be quite a polished gentleman, had a knowledge of vaccination, and practised it. He said, "Sir, you have extinguished the most pestilential disorder that ever appeared on the banks of the Don."

SMOKING.

Boxhornius, the learned professor at Leyden, injured his health by smoking too much. So addicted was he to this practice, that he wore a hat with a hole in it to support his pipe, so that he could smoke, whilst he was studying and writing.

REVIVAL OF THE HUMORAL PATHOLOGY.

Systems of medicines are notoriously under the influence of vicissitude. The leading doctrines of the present day are, in most cases, directly opposed to those which referred all diseases to the state of fluids. This old and obsolete pathology has, however, been revived and defended with great boldness and spirit, by Professor Hosack, in the medical school of New York. The positions defended are—1. "That most, if not all diseases, arise primarily in the fluids." The solidists of Philadelphia reply, "that all the fluids are derived from the solids, and ask, whether it is the blood, or the

integuments and blood-vessels, which are first affected in vaccinating?"—2. "That the blood is often marked by a morbid lento or viscidity." It is replied, that "this is never the case till the blood be extricated, and begin to decompose; and in Phthisis, rheumatism, and inflammatory fevers, it is perceptibly thinner than in health."—3. "That the blood sometimes receives sundry kinds of morbific acrimony from without." It is replied, "that even the matter of small-pox or syphilis only irritates the solids; such as the punctured integuments, or the lymphatic glands, which by sympathy re-produce the disease in distant parts. In the case of turpentine, garlic, &c. being perceptible to the organs of smell, in the urine, and in the milk, while no such odour is detected in the blood nor in the chyle; it is conjectured, that the odoriferous matter may be reproduced by sympathy, in the same manner."—4. "That the blood sometimes contains a putrid acrimony engendered within." It is replied, "that the vital principle is so powerfully antiseptic, that it would immediately correct such a putridity, or the animal would die."—5. "That contagion is generated, multiplied, and diffused through the system." It is replied, from experiment, that "blood taken from patients in small-pox, cow-pox, measles, or lues, will not infect by in-

oculation. The contagious matter of plague, &c. is increased by secretion, while the blood remains healthy, like the poison of the rattle-snake, whose blood is not poisonous; or of the cherry-laurel, whose sap or juice is not more poisonous than that of the birch, or sugar-maple."

MORBUS PEDICULARIS.

This is indeed a horrible and disgusting malady, and probably affords the most melancholy image of human mortality. History makes mention of various individuals who have thus been, as it were, devoured alive. In the midst of affluence and luxury, Sylla terminated his life in this manner, at his seat at Cuma. There are even two awful and striking examples of sovereigns who have perished in this manner; Herod, King of Judæa, in whose reign Jesus Christ suffered; and the last King of Spain of the Austrian dynasty, who died the last year of the seventeenth century.

WILLIAM CLOWES,

One of the most eminent surgeons of his time, but of whom no biographical memoir is to be met with, with the exception of those extracted from his works, relates a story, in one of his prefaces, which may serve to shew the credulity

of the age in which he lived, as well as the petty knavery of an impostor in low life. An old woman, who pretended to cure all diseases by a charm, for the simple fee of a penny and a penny loaf of bread, was committed for sorcery and witchcraft, by the magistracy, and arraigned, for these heinous crimes, at the assizes. The judges, however, who were not quite so credulous, told the old sorceress that she should be discharged if she would make an ample confession, and reveal the nature of her charm; when she immediately told them, that it consisted, *holus bolus*, in the following verses, pronounced after she had received her penny:—

My loaf in my lap,
My penny in my purse;
Thou art never the better,
Nor am I never the worse!

Well, indeed; it would have been for mankind if empiricism and imposture had always been as simplified as this.

ANTIPATHIES.

The Duke D'Epernon would faint at the sight of a leveret. Cæsar D'Abret at a sucking pig. Schoockins, professor of philosophy, at the sight or smell of cheese. Tycho Brahe, at the sight of a fox. Hobbes, if left in the dark. Bacon, during an eclipse of the Sun.

Bayle, if he heard water falling from a rain spout. There was one Olaus (says George Harmeus, in the acts of Copenhagen 1676) who, at the sound of his own name, would shriek and become convulsed. Schœnk speaks of a person who immediately swooned if a pig was brought upon table.—(*Observ. Med.*)

ANALYSIS OF VENOUS BLOOD.

Venous blood, left to itself, forms, after a short time, a soft mass, which by degrees separates spontaneously into two parts, the one liquid, yellowish, and transparent, called *serum*; the other soft, almost solid, of a deep reddish colored brown, entirely opaque, which is the *cruor* or *curd*, and falls to the bottom of the vase; the other, the serum, lies on the top of it. There sometimes forms on the surfaces of the serum, a thin soft, reddish coat, to which the name of *crassamentum* has been given. This spontaneous separation of the elements of the blood only takes place in proportion as it is left in a state of repose. If it be agitated, it remains liquid, and preserves for a greater length of time its homogeneous appearance.

Placed in contact with oxygen gas, or atmospheric air, the blood takes a vermillion red tint; with ammonia it becomes of a cherry colour; with azote a more deep red brown, &c. In

changing colour it absorbs a very considerable quantity of these different gases ; and kept some time under a bell placed over mercury, it exhales a great quantity of carbonic acid.

According to BERZELIUS, 1000 parts of human serum contain

Water.....	903.0						
Albumen.....	80.0						
Substances soluble in alcohol	<table> <tr> <td>Lactate of soda and extractive matter ..</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muriate of Soda and potash</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table>	Lactate of soda and extractive matter ..	4	Muriate of Soda and potash	6		
Lactate of soda and extractive matter ..	4						
Muriate of Soda and potash	6						
Substances soluble in water ..	<table> <tr> <td>Soda and animal matter</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phosphate of soda ..</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Loss</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </table>	Soda and animal matter	4	Phosphate of soda ..	4	Loss	3
Soda and animal matter	4						
Phosphate of soda ..	4						
Loss	3						
	<hr/>						
	Total 1000.0						
	<hr/>						

The serum sometimes presents a whitish milky tint, which may have led to believe that it contained chyle : the matter which gives it this colour appears to be grease.

The CRUOR of the blood is essentially composed of fibrine and colouring matter.

The FIBRINE, separated from the colouring matter, is solid, whitish, insipid, and inodorous, heavier than water, without any action on vegetable colours, elastic when moist, and

becoming brittle by dessication. It yields, by distillation, a quantity of the carbonate of ammonia, &c. and a very voluminous carbon, the ashes of which contain a great quantity of the phosphate of lime, a little of the phosphate of magnesia, carbonate of lime, and carbonate of soda. A hundred parts of FIBRINE are composed of

Carbon	53.360
Oxygen.....	19.685
Hydrogen.....	7.021
Azote	19.934
<hr/>	
Total	100.000
<hr/>	

The colouring matter is soluble in water and in the serum of the blood. When examined with the microscope, it appears dissolved in these liquids, like the greater part of the animal fluids, formed of small globules; dried and calcined afterwards in contact with the atmosphere, it melts, puffs up, burns with a flame; and leaves a carbon that cannot be reduced to ashes without considerable difficulty. This carbon, during its combustion, disengages ammoniacal gas, and furnishes about the hundredth part of its weight of ashes, composed of about

Oxyde of iron	53.0
Phosphate of lime, and traces of phosphate of magnesia.....	8.5
Pure lime.....	17.5
Carbonic acid	19.5
 Total	98.5

Neither gelatine nor phosphate of lime are found in any of the parts of which the blood is composed.—*Précis de Phisiologie Élémentaire.*

UTILITY OF MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS.

" My veneration for my own profession, and for those who practise it, is not excessive ; and many things in the theory and the practice of it I consider as fair objects of ridicule, contempt, and reproach. I trust, therefore, I may have some chance of meeting with credit, when I declare, that I do not regard proper consultations of medical men as frivolous or useless, but quite the contrary ; in numberless cases, they are just what will best conduce to the relief or cure of their patients. In all cases, either of doubt or of great danger, a physician must be wonderfully ignorant, or wonderfully arrogant, most probably both, who does not anxiously desire a consultation, either for his patient's sake, or for his own.

" Many advantages arise from two consulting together, who are men of candour, and have mutual confidence in each other's honour. A remedy may occur to one which did not to another; and a physician may want resolution, or sufficient confidence in his own opinion, to prescribe a powerful but precarious remedy, on which, however, the life of his patient may depend; in this case, the concurrent opinion of his brother may fix his own. But if there is no mutual confidence; if opinions are regarded, not according to their intrinsic merit, but according to the person from whom they proceed; or if there is reason to believe that sentiments delivered with openness are to be whispered abroad, and misrepresented to the public, without regard to the obligations of honour and secrecy; and if, in consequence of this, a physician is singly to be made responsible for the effects of his advice; in such cases, consultations of physicians tend rather to the detriment than the advantage of the sick, and the usual, and indeed most favourable conclusion of them is, some very harmless but insignificant prescription.

" The consultations which we read of in the works of Moliere, and Le Sage, and Fielding, and the New Bath Guide, and fifty other books, are certainly very entertaining; so per-

haps would many of our real consultations be, if they were as generally known. But here an important distinction must be made, which in general has been overlooked. They are not equally entertaining to every body; commonly they are most entertaining to those who are not interested in them, and not in the least entertaining to those who are. I do not know a worse joke than a consultation of physicians is to the person who is the subject of it, except a consultation of surgeons: for this involves the horrible notion of pain, in addition to danger or death.

" Accordingly, many a very facetious man, who used to have a large assortment of excellent stories and jokes on our faculty, cannot think of one of them, when a few surgeons are consulting whether he shall lose his life, or only one of his legs.

" It is with them and the faculty, just as with those wags who have an inexhaustible stock of the best old jokes on the clergy, and on religion; but when they are dying of the dropsy, or going to be hanged, lose at once all relish for them, and look almost as grave as the physician or the judge who condemned them.

" I can suppose a man of such firm nerves, that in the midst of five and twenty surgeons,

consulting whether he shall be cut for the stone, he shall mind them no more than as many hobgoblins shown by a magic lantern, and withal of so facetious a disposition, as to exclaim, before they have ended their consultation,"

"Centum me tetigere manus Aquilone gelatae;
Non habui febrem, Symmache, nunc habeo."

Gregory.

QUALITIES OF A GOOD PHYSICIAN.

Aselepiades said, that an excellent physician ought to cure his patients *tuto, celeriter, et jucundè* (surely, quickly, and pleasantly). "Our Doctors," observed the famous Guy Patin on this subject, "send us into the other world *tuto et celeriter*." It might be added, that many of the present day join the *jucundè*.

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